FBIS DAILY REPORT

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KING HUSAYN 'BREAKS ICE' BETWEEN IRAQ, SYRIA

NC241845 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 24 May 80

[Paris correspondent Habib Rahhal's dispatch by telephone--live or recorded]

[Text] Sources close to the royal palace in Amman have said that during his recent visit to Iraq King Husayn was able to break the ice between Damascus and Baghdad. The Jordanian monarch has asked his ambassador in Damascus to convey this [word indistinct] to Lt Gen Hafiz al-Asad. President al-Asad received the Jordanian ambassador despite the advice of his doctors that he stay home because of a severe cold he suffered at the end of last week.

The details are that King Husayn convinced President Saddam Husayn that the present Arab situation cannot tolerate further deterioration, and that relations between Damascus and Baghdad are actually moving toward deterioration because of Syria's open support for Tehran, the reports that Syrian military forces are now present in Iran to support the Iranian Revolution against any attempt to frustrate it, and the open clash between Baghdad and Tehran.

The Jordanian sources say that the Jordanian monarch was able to convince President Saddam Husayn to move one step toward Damascus and to learn its views. The Iraqi president promised to send Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hamadi to Damascus to coordinate between the two capitals. Iraq promised to increase its financial, military and oil aid to Syria, and to stop assisting or supporting the Muslim Brotherhood group. Damascus has implicitly accused Baghdad of training and arming the Muslim Brotherhood. This is conditional on a Syria promise to stop its financial, military and informational aid to the Iranian Revolution. Damascus was called upon to adopt the Iraqi view that the battle between Baghdad and Tehran is an Arab-Persian battle.

Amman sources say that the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus gave all these details to President Hafiz al-Asad, but the Syrian president has not yet accepted or rejected this mediation. He promised to submit the matter to the regional and national commands of the Ba'th Party to get their views and give the answer. Amman is now awaiting Syria's answer.

VOP: 'ARMY OFFICERS SECRETLY EXECUTED IN EGYPT'

NC251605 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] According to reliable sources in Cairo, a number of Egyptian officers were executed following the discovery of military cells that were operating against the As-Sadat regime. The officers were executed after a short and secret trial in one of the army camps in Al-'Abbasiyah, while another group of officers received jail sentences ranging from 10 years to life.

According to reports, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency assisted the As-Sadat intelligence organs in uncovering these cells, which included a group of high-ranking Egyptian officers. The reports add that leaflets are being distributed inside the army camps and barracks expressing the dissatisfaction of the branches of the army with the deteriorating situation which the country has reached under the regime of As-Sadat. The leaflets also express opposition to the regime's political and economic policies.

VOL: PLO SETS UP ANTI-AL-QADHDHAFI TRAINING CAMPS

NC251336 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] According to some reports the PLO has set up a camp on the Egyptian-Libyan border to train elements opposed to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's regime. These elements are being trained by Fatah officers in cooperation with the Egyptian intelligence service. According to the same reports, these elements attend a 1-month training course, after which they are capable of carrying out military activity inside Libya or against Libyan interests abroad.

FATAH GENERAL CONFERENCE CONTINUES IN DAMASCUS

NC261625 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1520 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] The fourth general conference of the Fatah movement resumed its meeting in Damascus today to discuss the Fatah movement's Central Committee reports, especially the political, financial and organizational reports. Our reporter says that yesterday's discussions continued until late at night. The conference heard statements by over 30 members, who all dealt extensively with the various activities of the Fatah movement.

The general discussions will continue until this evening, after which the conference is expected to form its committees. In view of the numerous discussions and their comprehensive nature and the many speakers who have taken the platform, the conference is expected to be extended 1 or 2 days. At yesterday's meetings, brother commander Abu 'Ammar and brother Abu Iyad participated in the discussions, explaining several issues which were raised by the conference members.

The meetings are continuing in an atmosphere dominated by clear vision and deep awareness of the tasks which are being shouldered by the Fatah movement at this historic and grave stage--given that Fatah is the leading organization of the Palestinian revolution and has a leading and vanguard role in the Arab and world liberation movements.

VOP REPORTS ISRAELI MILITARY MOVES IN NORTHERN ISRAEL

NC261558 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1525 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] According to reports from south Lebanon, the Zionist army is conducting military exercises in the northern part of occupied Palestine. The reports say that new Zionist reinforcements have entered the occupied border strip and taken up positions opposite the UN forces.

Meanwhile, Zionist gunboats have continued their activity off the Lebanese coast in the areas of Tyre and As-Sarafand. Zionist planes also made low-level flights over the eastern sector of south Lebanon today.

SAUDI ARABIA

PRINCE FAHD DISCUSSES CAMP DAVID, 'OIL WEAPON'

Mideast Crisis

LD241130 Kuwait KUNA in English 1040 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Kuwait, May 24 (KUNA)--The Saudi Crown Prince and Deputy Premier Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz warned the world community that the Arab countries would use whatever weapons at their disposal if they lost hope in a just settlement for the Middle East crisis.

He also stressed that the Arabs are concerned over maintenance of world peace and stability, but if the world community "fails to realise our good intentions, we will be forced to use every possible weapon including blood which is more valuable than the oil".

He added, in an interview published by AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper here Saturday that the Arabs should find solutions for their own problems through unity and solidarity "to make the world consider their cause seriously and to force their enemies to give back to them their legal rights in occupied Palestine."

On his government's stand regarding the Camp David agreements, President Fahd said despite the fact that these agreements were short of the final and comprehensive settlement Israel has helped obstruct their implementation through its stubborness.

The Saudi crown prince said his country is being subjected to a propaganda campaign by the Western mass media because of its stand opposing the Camp David attempt to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He accused imperialism, communism and Zionism of feeding this campaign. He said that the controversial British film "Death of a Princess" represents the climax of hatred against Saudi Arabia.

He clarified: "We tried to convince the British Government to ban the screening of this film, but it claimed that it could not interfere and that is why we took certain sanctions against it".

We cannot but regret the British Government stand because deceiving the British people in the name of freedom serves only the enemies of these people, Fahd said. He added, "we cannot advise the British Government on what it should not do, but we believe it is the task of governments everywhere to enlighten and protect people against forces [of] deception".

Oil Weapon

LD242216 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1950 GMT 24 May 80

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 24 May--Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has affirmed that the Arabs will not be able to solve their principal problem unless they unify their ranks and tackle the problem as a unified nation.

In a statement to Kuwait's AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, published today, the prince said that true and effective Arab solidarity alone is the right way to unified action. If the Arabs are to succeed in frustrating the foreign attempts to polarize the area, the prince said, then we can concentrate our efforts on the common Arab objectives concerning which we have no differences. Referring to the campaign being waged against the kingdom, Prince Fahd said that this is connected with the kingdom's opposition to the attempts to impose a partial settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He added that the Zionist forces are trying to preoccupy us and divert us from the line we have adopted on the side of our nation and its just causes. The prince also dealt with a number of important issues which preoccupy public opinion internally and externally. Here follows the prince's statement.

Question: Does your highness support the idea of cutting off oil from the United States should our cause of destiny reach a bottleneck?

Answer: We always prefer not to think of evil eventualities. We always like an opportunity to arise between us and those states which affect our causes of destiny to reach an understanding through dialogue and conviction. We want the whole world to realize our true desire to safeguard its security and economic stability and not to expose the oil consuming countries to any economic disturbances which would have repercussions on the whole world. However, this does not mean that we should spare any weapon at our disposal if our causes of destiny reach a stage when there would be no hope for a just solution. If the international community fails to realize our good intentions, we will then be forced to use all weapons at our disposal. Then we will shed blood, which is more precious than oil--indeed, it is the most precious thing in life.

Question: What about the Saudi-PDRY rapprochement? What are your views on the current situation in the Gulf?

Answer: We always seek rapprochement with all brothers regardless of everything. This is our firm policy which aims at avoiding creating crises. We persistently work to heal rifts and bridge gaps. As for the situation in the Gulf, we feel it is encouraging. The Gulf countries are capable of taking unified stands on all issues and problems. True, the dangers around us are on the increase and attempts to interfere in our affairs are there. But the Gulf countries have declared their readiness to face up to all challenges without any foreign intervention. Our ultimate goal is to keep foreign dangers at bay and protect the region from a foreign intervention which would invite a reciprocal foreign intervention, and thus the whole area would become an arena for international conflict and a furnace for war, which, if it started in this area, would soon become a horrible world war. The determination of all the Gulf countries to put an end to all foreign intervention into Gulf affairs and to prevent it serves not only our interests but also the interests and prosperity of all peoples and world peace as a whole.

COMMENTATOR: WEIZMAN QUITS, BUT ISRAELI POSITION UNCHANGED

LD262216 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 May 80

[Husayn al-'Askari commentary]

[Excerpts] Arab observers have been studying the resignation of the Israeli enemy's defense minister and its reflections upon the so-called attempts to establish peace between the Arabs and Israel. Undoubtedly the resignation of the Israeli enemy's defense minister, which was not unexpected, has given the impression that there is an acute difference of opinion between the resigning minister and Prime Minister Begin about the concept of a future peace in the shadow of an Israeli desire to obtain from such a peace everything it wants without giving anything in return.

We consider the resignation from the factual point of view. It does not mean that the defense minister differs essentially with the prime minister concerning the core of the talks on the so-called autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The difference between the two men is not that at all, as both of them are hostile toward the Arab nation. Each tries hard to pursue his ambitions, although the means toward that objective differ. Both refuse to deal with the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people or recognize their existence. On the other hand, they are intransigent concerning giving up Israel's stands on the so-called autonomy talks for the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which were supposed to reach a decisive result today, 26 May.

In the light of these considerations the resignation of the enemy's defense minister does not and will never constitute an element of accord or impasse concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict issue. The situation will remain the same whether Begin's government continues in office with all its ministers, or whether some or the whole government departs. Israeli intransigence will continue to exist. The maneuvers of Israel's Government to gain time will continue. To counter this, the most effective element will remain the steadfastness and unity of the Arab nation's word to confront all Israel's hawks and doves.

YAR

YAR-PDRY CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE BEGINS MEETINGS

JN261531 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] The meetings of the third session of the joint constitutional committee of the two parts of the homeland were opened in San'a' this morning. The northern part's delegation to the meeting was headed by Husayn 'Ali al-Hubayshi, minister of state and adviser to the presidency and cabinet. The southern part's delegation was led by brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim, secretary of the Supreme People's Council Presidium [title as received]. At the beginning of the meeting Al-Hubayshi delivered a speech in which he welcomed the head and members of the southern part of the homeland to the constitutional committee. Al-Hubayshi added: There is no doubt that every time we meet our national mission is to overcome difficulties that might pose obstacles to our work, so that our unity steps will grow clearer.

Indeed, this is embodied in the efforts exerted by the leaders of the two parts of the homeland through their contacts and meetings, the last of these being the Aden meeting, which affirmed the practical steps that will lead to the reunity of Yemen. Al-Hubayshi said: In light of this atmosphere of unity, we have great hope that the answers to questions such as how and when Yemen will be reunited have now come within the reach of all national elements and sons of the Yemeni people. Brother 'Abdallah Ahmad Ghanim replied: Today, as we open the third session for the year 1980, I have the pleasure to address our greetings to you and our thanks for your spirit, which permeated the unity work during our last session in both Aden and (?Saywun), a spirit that we hope will prevail again during this session, so that we can achieve the constitution for unity.

Ghanim added: Previous meetings and contacts have given us wide experience in overcoming difficulties whenever they are found and in reaching satisfactory solutions. Indeed, this will always be the case as long as we aspire to the general interest and unity of the Yemani people, who look upon each meeting or contact with a spirit of hope [word indistinct] the day of great unity. The Joint constitutional committee will continue its meetings tomorrow in the city of Hajjah.

MUBARAK, KHALIL REPORT ON TALKS IN WASHINGTON

NC251449 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 25 May--MENA has learned that two important reports have arrived in Cairo from Washington in the past few hours. The first report is from Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the second from Dr Mustafa Khalil, the deputy leader of the National Democratic Party and official responsible for foreign contacts. The reports are on the discussions which Mubarak and Khalil held there on the resumption of the autonomy talks. The consultations on the autonomy talks are continuing. It has also been learned that the [Egyptian] position will be determined in the light of U.S. Government's anticipated reply.

Khalil-Carter Meeting

NC232007 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Dr Mustafa Khalil, deputy leader of the National Democratic Party, has said that Israel's decision to make Jerusalem its capital is a challenge to the Camp David accords. He also affirmed that this decision irritated the United States.

Following his meeting with U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Dr Mustafa Khalil said that the decision has complicated the Arab-Israeli negotiations on Palestinian autonomy. Dr Mustafa Khalil pointed out that Egypt was astonished by the decision and that the presentation of a bill on Jerusalem to the Knesset has created a new situation regarding Jerusalem. He affirmed that if the bill was approved as a basic law or a part of the constitution in Israel, it would that we would be confronting a most serious situation regarding Arab Jerusalem. Dr Mustafa Khalil noted that the Egyptian delegation to the autonomy negotiations had been confronted with similar methods initiated by the Israeli delegation at the outset of every round of negotiations.

Mubarak-Muskie Meeting

NC231947 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1846 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Washington, 23 May--Vice President Husni Mubarak declared that he has handed a message from President as-Sadat to President Carter concerning the current state of the autonomy negotiations and the obstacles created by Israel, which resulted in the suspension of the autonomy negotiations--particularly the question of Jerusalem.

Mr Mubarak made these statements after a 90-minute working dinner with U.S. Secretary of State Edmund Muskie, during which, according to Mr Mubarak, he consulted with Mr Muskie on this topic as well. The vice president said he affirmed to U.S. officials that Egypt does not oppose the resumption of the negotiations. He added that the negotiations had been halted because the question of Jerusalem had been raised--a question which is of prime importance to Egypt.

Mr Mubarak noted that Egypt's stand was clear from the beginning and that this stand remains unchanged; that is, Egypt affirms the need to resume the negotiations on the basis of the Camp David agreements. Mr Mubarak said that raising the question of Jerusalem in the Knesset was contrary to the spirit of Camp David. He added that despite this, Egypt is prepared to resume the negotiations without any Israeli preconditions, and a summit meeting should be ruled out at present because tangible progress must be made at the negotiations; only then can we hold a summit to conclude any agreement we might reach.

Mr Husni Mubarak said that Egypt is waiting for Israel's reply and that Egypt will reject any preconditions. The vice president criticized the obstacles raised by Israel in the form of the bill submitted to the Knesset concerning Jerusalem. He added that this question is extremely sensitive, that Jerusalem is important to the Muslims as well as to other religions, and that raising this question now will impede the negotiations. Mr Mubarak said that President as-Sadat's attitude was clear from the beginning--even during his Knesset speech in 1977 when he carried out the peace initiative. The vice president said: We discussed this question with President Carter and Edmund Muskie--as is the case every now and then.

Asked about his meeting this morning with the U.S. defense secretary, the vice president said that there is close cooperation between us and the United States in the military sphere. He added: We discussed with U.S. officials at the Defense Department several topics of interest to us. Also attending the dinner with the vice president was the deputy leader of the National Democratic Party, Dr Mustafa Khalil; chief of staff Lt Gen Muhammad Abu Ghazalah; and Egyptian Ambassador in Washington Ashraf Ghurbal.

Muskie and his deputy, Warren Christopher, were waiting for Mr Husni Mubarak when he arrived at the Department of State.

MUBARAK: EGYPT WILLING TO RESUME AUTONOMY TALKS

NC271024 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 27 May 80

[Text] Vice President Husni Mubarak has reiterated that Egypt is taking the autonomy talks seriously and is willing to resume them without preconditions and faits accomplis. Speaking to the Voice of Germany Radio in Cologne, the vice president expressed regret that the Israelis had tried to impose preconditions on Egypt during the negotiations and that, at the same time, the Jewish agency had announced the establishment of 14 new settlements in addition to the Knesset's approval of a basic bill aimed at making Jerusalem the unified capital of Israel. The vice president added that, because of all these reasons, it became impossible to continue the negotiations with Israel.

Concerning the Arab countries' attitudes and the recent change in some of these attitudes, the vice president said that we are proceeding with our own policy to solve the Middle East problem. He added that this policy has remained unchanged from the moment we initiated it, ever since President as-Sadat started it with his historic initiative in November 1977.

The vice president further said that President as-Sadat's message to German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt--which he had already handed to Mr Hans-Dietrich Genscher--deals with Palestinian autonomy and the negotiations related to it.

EGYPT, U.S. DRAFT NEW FORMULA FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS

NC241927 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1857 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Washington, 24 May--It has been learned from informed U.S. sources that U.S. officials have accepted with understanding the Egyptian view on the autonomy negotiations, contained in President as-Sadat's message to President Carter, which Vice President Husni Mubarak has handed to the U.S. President.

The sources said that a formula for returning the negotiations to their normal course is currently being discussed. The Israeli reply to this formula is expected to come after the Israeli Cabinet meeting tomorrow, Sunday.

The MENA correspondent in Washington has learned that the United States does not support Israel's position on the exclusion of any subject from discussion. The United States is of the opinion that all subjects, including Jerusalem, should be raised for discussion because discussion is the only way to overcome any difficulties or problems.

The new formula for the resumption of the talks was drawn up yesterday following a series of meetings and consultations which Vice President Husni Mubarak held with President Carter, Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and President Carter's National Security Adviser Brzezinski.

Husni Mubarak is scheduled to leave Washington tomorrow for Bonn to meet with Jerman Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. He will then visit London to meet with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The vice president will spend 2 days in each capital before returning to Cairo.

AL-AHRAM Report

NC270842 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 27 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 27 May--The newspaper AL-AHRAM today reports that U.S. President Jimmy Carter is currently studying with his aides the question of resuming the autonomy talks and the guarantees which the United States may give Egypt regarding the issue of settlements and the Israeli stands. The paper adds that the U.S. President's study comes in light of the discussions held with Vice President Husni Mubarak in Washington. The paper says that if the United States succeeds, it will release a statement once an agreement is reached between Egypt and Israel.

'ALI MAKES STATEMENT ON 26 MAY TALKS DEADLINE

NC261830 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali made a statement on the occasion of 26 May. Our correspondent Hamdi Jawhar reports:

[Begin recording] According to the Camp David accord, agreement was to be reached on the establishment of full autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. However, due to Israel's stand this aim has not been achieved. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali made a statement on 26 May. He said:

[Begin 'Ali recording] In fact 26 May is the date by which we hoped we would actually have achieved the aims of the Camp David accord concerning the Palestinians; that is, the second part of the Camp David agreement. However, regrettably, Israel's lagging in the negotiations during the past year is in fact the main reason for the failure to achieve this aim by this date.

However, this does not mean that we must stop everything. No. We must continue the negotiations but under better circumstances than those at present, particularly recent Israeli reports about building new settlements, the cruel and inhuman treatment of the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Israeli insistence on changing the real concepts of the Camp David agreements and the clear words outlined in the agreement. [end recording]

COMMENT ON WEIZMAN RESIGNATION, AUTONOMY TALKS REPORTED

OCTOBER Editor

NC241016 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 24 May 80

[Excerpts] Cairo, 24 May--Anis Mansur has emphasized that the autonomy negotiations are expected to be resumed at any time and that this will become clear after the Carter-Mubarak meeting in Washington.

Anis Mansur adds that Husni Mubarak will submit several options for resuming the autonomy negotiations between Egypt and Israel and will discuss with President Carter the attempts by some Arab states to have a role [in the negotiations] at a later stage. In his weekly article to be published by the OCTOBER magazine tomorrow, Anis Mansur says: It is true that a lot of time has been wasted without our achieving anything. However, we must say that the same way that peace with Israel was achieved through negotiations, autonomy can be only established through negotiations. Mansur points out that the autonomy negotiations with Israel are difficult for us because we cannot make concessions or be very flexible--which we can do when an issue concerns us, but not when it concerns others and the Palestinian people. Anis Mansur reveals the contents of the letter that Menahim Begin sent to President Anwar as-Sadat. The letter says:

"The Egyptian People's Assembly adopted a clear decision on Jerusalem and the West Bank on 1 April. Despite the People's Assembly decision, Israel saw nothing in it that prevented the negotiations from being continued.

"The Egyptian People's Assembly declared that Jerusalem was an indivisible part of the West Bank and that the historical and religious rights of the Arabs in Jerusalem must be respected. The assembly demanded that these rights be fully restored and declared that all measures adopted by Israel to Judaize the city were null and void; that the Security Council's resolution on Jerusalem must be implemented; that the inhabitants of Arab Jerusalem had the right to participate in establishing the autonomy authority; and that Jerusalem must be the headquarters for the full autonomy."

In his letter to President as-Sadat, Begin further says that despite this decision by the People's Assembly, he has neither used it as a reason to stop the negotiations nor considered it as a precondition. In ending his letter, Begin asks President as-Sadat to decide when the negotiations will be resumed because it was he who decided to suspend them.

Anis Mansur notes that in his letter to Carter, Begin says that the Knesset's recent stand was merely a reply to the stand of the Egyptian People's Assembly and then asked: Is this an indication that it was the government which compelled Mrs (Jiula) Cohen to submit such a proposal [to the Knesset considering unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel]?

Anis Mansur then discusses the U.S. role, saying that Egypt and Israel felt that Sol Linowitz was a polite mediator and not a full partner. Turning to the role of the Western states, Mansur says that this role became clear after the U.S. role began weakening both internationally and regionally as well as in the negotiations between Egypt and Israel. He adds: The Western states are not in full agreement among themselves and cannot adopt any decisions on anything. The most they can do is to return to the United Nations and make the Soviet Union share in issuing a resolution on the Palestinian people's right to self-rule.

In conclusion, Anis Mansur says: If the Western states want to contribute anything, then they cannot insure the success of these negotiations without the U.S.' help.

Foreign Minister 'Ali

NC251446 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 25 May--Commenting today on the resignation of Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed regret over the resignation.

He said Weizman has been an Israeli official who has pursued a solution for the [Palestinian] issue since the Camp David accords, has a realistic view favoring a just peace, exerted great efforts for the implementation of the Egyptian-Israeli treatys during the past year, and had a realistic view on the process of the normalization of relations between the two countries. Also, through his understanding of the issue, he has been able to make many friends in Egypt.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added: I consider myself to be one of them. I tried to contact him a number of times today but have not been able to do so because the lines were busy. I shall try again because Weizman is a friend with whom we worked for about 18 months in complete frankness and fruitful cooperation. I hope that he will stay as a member of the Knesset so that his political vote will remain in the processes of peace and full autonomy for the Palestinians.

To newsmen's questions on whether he believed that there will be complications in the negotiations after Weizman's resignation, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: I do not believe that there will be complications after the resignation because the Egyptian-Israeli agreement is very clear and does not contain any ambiguities. Moreover, cooperation in the joint military committee will continue and this alone is a guarantee for continuing cooperation in implementing the withdrawal to the international border line.

To another question he said: The resignation indicates that there are fundamental differences in viewpoints inside the Israeli Government on some important topics, foremost and most important of which are the settlements.

To another question he said: I think this will affect the Israeli coalition since there are some Israeli ministers who have the same beliefs and principles as Weizman.

Cairo Radio

NC261436 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 May 80

[Hazim 'Abd ar-Rahman's commentary: "The Successive Crises in Israel and the Challenges to Peace"]

[Excerpts] With the resignation of Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman, Menahem Begin's government is facing the worst ministerial crisis it has encountered since it assumed power in May 1977.

The first thing that is noteworthy about the position of the outgoing Israeli defense minister is that he had been a superhawk in the Herut Party--directly chaired by Begin--before he took the post. After that, Weizman's stand began to change gradually toward the Arab-Israeli question, its future and the ways of handling it. Weizman began to criticize the settlements policy pursued by the Likud government, particularly with regard to its emphasis on establishing settlements in heavily Arab-populated areas in the West Bank since this policy resulted in tension there and in the lack of a suitable atmosphere to advance--and consequently impede--the peace process, which began with Egypt.

We may also note that at the Israeli Cabinet meeting yesterday--the meeting at which Weizman tendered his resignation--the Israeli Government approved of a plan to expand six settlements in the West Bank while the settlements committee was discussing the expansion of two settlements near Hebron.

This makes it clear to us the gap that separates the Israeli politicians as well as the extent of the contradictions among them--a gap that makes it impossible to reconcile the politicians' opposing views even through compromise despite the fact that compromise is their area of expertise.

As a matter of fact, and taking into account all indications, the Begin government, with its policies, values and aims, prevented the creation of the necessary atmosphere for the peace process not only from the Egyptian point of view, but also from the point of view of the doves and moderates in Israel. It is their view that this policy will impede the progress of U.S.-Israeli relations and expose them to successive crises.

In brief, the Egyptian peace initiative has placed Israel in a critical impasse. Israel is also facing internal and external crises from which it will not emerge by merely holding general elections or replacing this government with another. Israel can only emerge from its crises by a real response to the meaning of peace for all the peoples of the area.

Press Reaction

NC260652 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2256 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 25 May--Cairo papers AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasize that the resignation of Israeli Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman is a sign of the approaching downfall of Menahem Begin's government because of its policy on Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territory and on the Palestinian autonomy discussions.

In its commentary tomorrow, AL-AKHBAR describes the resignation as a setback that has divided Begin's government and placed it at a crossroads. In addition, the resignation is like a timebomb that has exploded within the government.

The paper expresses its belief that the resignation will not lead to the dissolution of the coalition and the breaking up of Begin's government at present, but that it has undoubtedly opened the door for this to take place soon. The paper corroborates this by saying that Begin's government has lost confidence in itself--and so have the Israeli people.

AL-AKHBAR refers to the opinion poll in Israel 2 days ago that indicates that the Israelis do not want Begin. The paper says that the Israelis do not mean Begin as a person, but his brinkmanship policy.

AL-JUMHURIYAH describes Weizman's resignation at these critical moments as a jump from a sinking ship and as a bet on something other than the losing horse.

The paper says Weizman is fully aware that Begin's government has no future because of its intransigent attitude at the Palestinian autonomy talks and that the Israeli voter has started looking for a substitute to replace it.

AL-JUMHURIYAH remarks that 'Ezer Weizman is one of the few who enjoy the confidence of the Israeli voter. It adds that another quality of Weizman is that his popularity goes beyond all political blocs and parties: it is a quality that makes him qualified to head an Israeli Government of unity embracing all forces.

NEWSWEEK INTERVIEWS AS-SADAT ON AUTONOMY TALKS, MUBARAK TRIP

NC260840 Cairo MENA in English 0820 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Cairo, May 26 (MENA)--The negotiations on a full autonomous government for the Palestinians could be resumed if Israel gave up her pre-conditions, declared President Anwar as-Sadat in an interview with the American magazine NEWSWEEK.

In the interview, published in the magazine's last number, the president declared that when the negotiations between Egypt and Israel began and even before the Camp David accords were reached, Egypt had made it clear there that no pre-conditions should be laid for the negotiations.

Replying to a question as to whether the United States of America should come forward with new proposals for solving the current negotiations, President as-Sadat asserted anew that the United States held 99 percent of the cards in the Middle East game and that without the United States help it would not have been possible to achieve anything even after the initiative of his trip to Jerusalem.

The president described Vice President Husni Mubarak's talks in Washington as very successful and said that Egypt had asked the United States of America to hurry up with the delivery of the weapons contracted for, so that Egypt might not be taken by surprise in any circumstances.

President as-Sadat pointed out that he had previously declared that he would give the United States of America facilities for reaching the Gulf in the event that a serious situation cropped up in the area calling for such action. The facilities, he added, would include any attempt to rescue the American hostages in Iran. The United States must not stop planning for the rescue of the hostages, he said.

AS-SADAT TO DELIVER 'IMPORTANT' SPEECH 29 MAY

NC262017 Cairo MENA in English 2005 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Cairo, May 26 (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat will next Thursday hand out decorations and orders to senior professors at the faculty of law, Cairo University, on the occasion of the centenary anniversary of the college, which will be staged at the university hall.

President Anwar as-Sadat will deliver an important address on the occasion.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS, MINISTERS

NC241525 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] President Anwar as-Sadat today received in Mit Abu al-Kawm Deputy Prime Ministers Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Fikri Makram 'Ubayd, Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Engineer Ahmad 'Izz ad-Din Hilal, Muhammad Nabawi Isma'il and Dr 'Abd ar-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid. The president later received Mrs Katherine Graham, owner of the Washington POST.

Further on Meeting

NC242043 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat held a 2-hour meeting in Mit Abu al-Kawm this morning with Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and other deputy prime ministers to discuss the plan of action during the next phase.

Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has said that President as-Sadat affirmed that the next phase depends upon the support of decentralization and the transfer of all jurisdictions to the governorates and on the elimination of all obstacles to achieving this goal. The primary tasks of the government are to provide major commodities and to reduce their prices.

He added that the necessary appropriations of local and foreign currency were reviewed. President as-Sadat stressed that the people should always be told the facts frankly and that the People's Assembly should serve as a rostrum for the government to inform the people of these facts. Constitutional bodies should function in a spirit of one family bringing about integration among them and love and cooperation should prevail within the constitutional bodies.

President as-Sadat has decided to meet with the deputy prime ministers every Saturday.

New Legislation Discussed

NC261910 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 26 May--President Anwar as-Sadat held a meeting today with Deputy Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din, Minister of Insurance and Social Affairs Dr Amal 'Uthman, Minister of State and Justice Anwar Abu Sihli, Minister of State for Culture and Information Mansur Hasan and Minister of State for Awqaf Dr Zakariya al-Birri.

It has been learned that President as-Sadat said at the beginning of the meeting that democracy does not mean deviation from traditions, norms and values. He said that references to the state and its organs are based on traditions and values. President as-Sadat said that anyone whose acts deviate from these values and traditions will not be acceptable. An end will promptly be put to such acts, regardless of the considerations and slogans raised.

During the meeting the conferees discussed a number of new pieces of legislation that the government will submit to the People's Assembly for urgent study during this session. They include a draft law on the consultative counci. and its jurisdictions and a draft law on the press. A general framework for these two laws has been drawn, consistent with the constitutional principles which the people's assembly approved at its latest session, particularly concerning the consultative council and press, which is considered the fourth estate. The framework also takes into consideration press freedom under the canopy of democracy. It also defines the role of the higher press council, press establishments and journalists and their duty toward the freedom and pride of the citizens.

It has been learned that the draft law on the consultative council and its jurisdictions will be submitted to the People's Assembly in the next few days so that two-thirds of the consultative council may be elected and one-third may be appointed, in accordance with the constitution, before the consultative council holds its first meeting on 12 June.

New Powers for Deputy Premier

NC261445 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Cairo, 26 May--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has issued a republican decree conferring several of his excellency's powers as president of the republic and prime minister on Deputy Prime Minister Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din. The decree is aimed at expediting work.

TEXT OF AS-SADAT WORKING PAPER ON 'NEW ARAB REALITY'

WA121800 Cairo THE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE in English 16-18 Apr 80 pp 4-6

["Egypt and the New Arab Reality'--A Working Paper by Anwar as-Sadat"--paper not published by Egyptian Arabic-language press]

PREAMBLE

1. At decisive moments in our history--the history of the Egyptian people and the Arab nation--we should consider our achievements frankly in an effort to find the path to our final goal.

2. We have now arrived, without a doubt, at such a moment; at a point in time when we should assess our situation in the light of our achievements while, at the same time, looking ahead, with open hearts and minds, in order to make the correct choice.

3. The Arab and international situations and the struggle for peace make it our patriotic and national duty to present a working paper for public discussion. This has been made all the more necessary by the development of a democracy since the corrective movement of May 15th, 1971, under a constitution, with constitutional and political institutions formed, after a long period of oppression, occupation, exploitation and denial of the natural rights of the Arabs, through the free will of the Egyptian people.

4. Although this paper is entitled, "Egypt and the New Arab Status Quo," our final goal, after consideration of the facts, will be to answer the pressing question: What form will our relations with the Arabs take in the future?

5. This working paper, for the most part, deals with historical events, so as to leave no room for preconceived judgements of so momentous a cause.

6. Our belief in genuine Egyptian thinking and democracy, practised on the basis of full commitment to the law and national interest, is the best guarantee for creative thought and correct decisions regarding the most crucial options facing Egypt--those of war or peace.

PREFACE

7. The 1952 Revolution gave top priority to political action in the Arab sphere. In doing so it was not influenced by mere whim, but by objective, historical and strategic facts as well as vital interests that both Egypt and the Arab world had in common.

8. Egypt's relations with the Arab world have always been a subject of controversy. Sometimes doubts are expressed about Egypt's being an Arab country and whether she is truly part of the Arab world.

At other times great emphasis is placed on Egypt's Arab character and her participation in the Arab scheme of things. There have thus been any number of political fluctuations in Egyptian-Arab relations, many of them caused by ephemeral considerations that have taken them to a breaking point and then back again to harmony.

9. Intellectual indulgence and political ups and downs, however, have been unable to alter facts which have been constantly developing. Egypt's response to the Arab world's political, economic and cultural requirements, therefore, has been a reaction over which there is no need for great cerebrations or explanations.

10. Facts of contemporary policy clearly show that there is no place in this world except for large entities and vast resources. Developing countries seeking political, economic and social independence have thus been led to seek formulas for cooperation, either collectively or regionally, so that they can obtain an effective hearing for their views in a world dominated by a dual polarisation, military blocs and international conflicts.

11. Amid this muddle, there have always been arguments aimed at dragging Egypt into "pharaohism" or regionalism of one kind or another--Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, or African. All have failed, however, to provide a substitute for that basic dimension of the Egyptian personality, namely, Egypt's Arab commitment.

Egypt's relationship with the Arab world, however, is no mere link between one piece of a region and a larger whole. It is a relationship that owes much to Egypt's distinguished historical, political and cultural position in the Arab world.

12. This position--that of a country destined to be at the forefront of affairs--means that Egypt is bound to play a major role for the liberation and independence of the Arab world. Egypt's efforts for the freedom and independence of Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Somalia, Mauritania, Kuwait, Algeria, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahran, Oman and Djibouti are only the most prominent manifestations of this role at work; a role in which thousands of Egyptians have died in the Arab East and West.

It is this position--the position of a country assuming her responsibility towards sister countries--that has made Egypt the most glamorous aspect of the Arab world and given her the most mature voice of all the Arab countries since the Second World War. Egypt's assertion of herself and her considerable contribution to establishing the role of the Third World in face of the big powers and their blocs represented again for the entire Arab world, not Egypt alone. [sentence as published]

13. Above all, the initiatives that Egypt has taken with regard to that most vital of Arab causes, the achievement of Arab unity, have been the highlight of Egypt's relationship with the Arab world. And, despite all allegations to the contrary, Egypt has remained the common factor in attempts at unity in the contemporary Arab world.

14. It was Egypt who took the initiative in the military confrontation with Israel and Zionism, and who bore, more than any other Arab country, the brunt of the hardest human, material, and moral sacrifices. Egypt's recent action to open the way to peace between the Arabs and Israel was natural, logical and historical for her. For no Arab country save Egypt had either the determination or the ability to take the initiative or even to foresee future consequences.

15. Despite the present differences with the Arab "rejectionist" rulers over the Egyptian peace initiative, the fact remains that those differences are only tactical not strategic, temporary not permanent. So any attempt to remove them should be based on this.

16. This pragmatic outlook on what is taking place on the Arab arena now leads us to a number of questions:

--Should these tactical differences persist for long, is it possible for a strategic gap to form that would destroy the historical relationship?

--What policy should be followed to overcome these differences, and what is the ideal way of solving them?

--Would overlooking the differences mean returning to the conditions which prevailed before they occurred, or would it mean that a new way should be thought out for bringing about reconciliation with the Arabs?

Reconciliation

--Should reconciliation mean that those who believe in action should move towards those who indulge in oratory and apathy or should Egypt, on the contrary, continue to lead the way and invite her sisters to accompany her on the road of studied progress towards national goals?

--What is the nature of the relationship between Egypt and the Arab peoples, between whom and some of the regimes ruling them, exists a wide intellectual and political chasm, and who regard Egypt as being at the vanguard of their struggle for those goals which have received a unanimous concensus of approval?

All these issues can be summed up in a single question: What is the shape of future Arab relations?

17. This working paper is meant to present objective, scientific facts to the vast majority of our people and our nation.

It is meant to help the political grassroots and the leadership find the right answer in defining future policy within the context of what we have achieved and what we are looking forward to achieving, taking into consideration the following hypotheses:

--Egypt is the heart of the Arab nation.

--Egypt is the vanguard of the Arab nation.

--Egypt has always been, and will always be, ready to bear the responsibilities of the throbbing heart and the bold vanguard.

18. The paper will tackle the following questions:

FIRST: Egypt's role in the liberation of the Arab nation.

SECOND: Egypt's role in establishing common Arab action.

THIRD: Egypt's role in the liberation of the Arab economy.

FOURTH: Egypt's role in highlighting the Arab identity.

FIFTH: Egypt's role in the Arab-Israeli confrontation.

SIXTH: Egypt's role in building peace.

SEVENTH: President Anwar as-Sadat's historic initiative.

EGYPT'S ROLE IN LIBERATION OF THE ARAB NATION

19. At the advent of the July 1952 Revolution, only seven of the present twenty-four Arab countries enjoyed a semblance of independence. Unfair treaties of foreign military pacts made them satellites of others.

20. The July 1952 Revolution, however, heralded the outbreak of liberation movements in the Third World in general and the Arab world in particular. Egypt was a pioneer in helping these movements achieve their goals and in setting an example to be followed for the achievement of independence.

21. Egypt sees that national liberation should be aimed at achieving three main goals:

--Ending foreign political domination,

--Liquidating the military influence of colonialism in the Arab world,

--Bringing about social as well as political revolution.

22. It was natural that Egypt's efforts in this sphere should be strongly resisted by the colonialist countries which fought to the last ditch to defend their interests and their existence in the region. This resistance was, nevertheless, met by firm determination on Egypt's part.

The challenge thus presented, aroused the patriotic feelings in the Arab people and created a revolutionary spirit that brought patriotic leaders, determined to achieve the aspiration of their people, to the fore. There followed an urgent need for a merging of the national revolutionary forces in various Arab countries in order to further mobilise themselves and close their ranks to confront colonialist resistance and move towards the Arab national goals of liberation and independence.

23. Experience of the Arab struggle has demonstrated the need to destroy those Arab bases and regimes cooperating with colonialism and hindering, by their policies and positions, the liberation movement. This led to the concept of social revolution as both a principal goal of the political revolution and a complementary element that would help the realisation of full independence.

24. The national liberation movement is based on the following principles, according to the Egyptian concept:

--Resistance to, and liquidation of, all forms of foreign political and military existence on Arab soil.

--The fusion of national liberation movements.

--Sparking social revolution, along with political revolution in order to achieve true independence.

25. Egypt's effective participation in the Palestinian War of 1948-49, a war that ended in defeat, stirred a deep sense of foreboding that dangers threatened the Arab world and its peoples, and that efforts should be mobilised on behalf of security, liberty and independence. The Egyptian blood that was shed on the Palestinian battlefield was not shed in vain. It rather nurtured the bud of the Egyptian Revolution [and the] Egyptian and Arab struggle.

26. Though Egypt was only able to end the British military presence in the country by signing the evacuation agreement of 1954, she never allowed the cause of liberating Egyptian territory to hinder her national and international efforts for spreading the tide of liberation in the surrounding Arab countries. Egypt called for the liberation of the Arab countries and the rejection of attempts to maintain colonial domination in the form of pacts. This is the real face of Egypt, who has been interested in the independence of her Arab sisters as in her own independence, and who has struggled for an independent Arab world.

27. Egypt's efforts for Sudanese independence started even before the 1952 Revolution. They grew stronger after the Revolution when Egypt faced firmly up to British manoeuvres aimed at delaying a solution of the Sudanese problem. This speeded up the conclusion of the agreement between Egypt and Britain signed in February 1953, which accorded our Sudanese brothers the right to self-determination.

The Democratic Republic of Sudan became the first African country to secure its independence with the aid of Egyptian efforts and when the Sudan became independent, in January 1956, Egypt was the first country to recognise it. Egypt's ambassador was also the first to submit his credentials to the independent Sudan. Egypt subsequently followed up by supplying all kinds of support and assistance.

In doing so, Egypt's sole inspiration was the close historical and geographic relations and the commonly held faith in Arab nationalism.

28. Certain ingrate Sudanese rulers went so far as to submit an unfounded complaint to the Security Council in February 1958, against Egypt though Egypt had maintained her firm support of the Sudanese people.

29. In May 1969, Egypt gave President Ja'far Numayri's revolution unlimited support and, with her courageous stand, enabled him to continue and strengthen his revolution. Egypt and Sudan also took long strides together to achieve one of the most important goals of the Arab struggle establishing close cooperation in various fields. Such cooperation crystalized in a specific plan for the achievement of real integration, based on the historical bonds and common destiny shared by the two peoples of the Nile Valley.

30. Egypt will continue to pursue her policy of co-operation in order to ensure the unity of the Nile Valley, regardless of any attempts to sow the seeds of dissension between the two brotherly peoples--such as those attempts made at the Bagdad meeting in November 1978 and at the Tunis meeting in November 1979--until the desired benefit for the two integrated peoples is achieved.

31. As regards Libya, it was Egypt's efforts in the international arena, which helped it achieve its independence, maintain its unity and foil attempts towards its division into three mini-states. Egypt supported the new state in various cultural, scientific and economic fields. Nevertheless, certain Libyan rulers responded to Egypt's efforts on behalf of Libyan unity and independence with hostility and ingratitude. They even went as far as plotting against Egypt's security and unity. Egypt, however, has continued to pursue her policy which is based on the principle of supporting the Arab people.

Deviation

32. Without a doubt, the Libyan revolution of 1969 owes a great deal to Egypt's support for its success and continuation, especially during it's early years, despite the difficult conditions which Egypt had experienced as a result of the 1967 set-back. The leaders of the Libyan revolution derived the will and power needed to strengthen their revolution from Egypt's support. Had it not been for the Libyan president's deviation from the right way at a later stage, a great deal could have been achieved in favour of Arab interests, and one of the attempts made by the Libyan president to achieve unity--although without caution and with a motive to dominate--could have succeeded.

33. Many Arab rulers met Egypt's struggle to support the liberation movement and Arab independence with ingratitude. The actions of certain Libyan rulers in the late 1950's and 1960's and those of the Libyan president in the 1970's, and the Tunisian president throughout the 1960's and 1970's, and the Shtura conference held after the union between Egypt and Syria broke down, are but examples of a series of negative actions towards Egypt and her positive efforts to free Arab soil from domination and colonialism, and to help the Arab people achieve independence and development.

Ferocious

34. The Egyptian revolution had also paid great attention to national movements in the Arab East, especially in the light of the Palestinian issue. This brought about a ferocious confrontation between the principles and thoughts of the Egyptian revolution with regard to the unity of Arab struggle on one hand, and colonialism and its agent regimes, especially in Iraq and Lebanon, on the other.

35. Egypt's success in ending the arms supply monopoly of the West in 1955, overcoming the High Dam finance problem and withstanding the Anglo-French-Isareli aggression in 1956, unaided by other Arab countries (although some Arab rulers announced the readiness to help Egypt face the attack), revived the selfconfidence which the Arab nation had lost over Palestine. This encouraged the national movements in the Arab countries.

36. Attacks on Egypt, nevertheless, increased during the Beirut meeting of 1956, presided over by Camille Sham'un and attended by 'Abd-al-Jillah, Nuri al-Sa'id and similar traitors. Egypt, they claimed, had not consulted the Arabs over the nationalisation of the Suez Canal. The story was very similar to that of Baghdad in 1978 and in Tunis in 1979.

37. It was natural for imperialism and its supporters to seek to contain the countries of the Arab East within military pacts under the imperialist theory of "filling the vacuum." But thanks to Egypt's efforts the Baghdad Pact was stillborn and Eisenhower's project for "filling the vacuum" was doomed to failure.

38. Due to co-operation between Nuri al-Sa'id in Iraq and Camille Sham'un in Lebanon, Syria found itself threatened and realised that unity with Egypt was the best protection for its political independence and prosperity. Egypt agreed to this and union between Egypt and Syria took place in February 1958.

39. King Saud's conspiracy, into which millions of pounds were poured, the plots of the profiteers, and the manoeuvres of the leaders of the Ba'th Party egged on by the lust for political power, succeeded in bringing about the secession of September 1961.

40. The Arab countries also attacked Egypt during the Shtura conference of 1962 in the same impudent style adopted at the Baghdad meeting of 1978 and the Tunis meeting of 1979. Today resembles yesterday because Arab systems are based on negativity and are sowing the seeds of conflict and separation.

41. Although the Egyptian-Syrian experience of unity was brief, its influence spread far and wide. The revolution took place in Iraq on July 14, 1958. The union was also one of the main factors which foiled American interference in Lebanon that year. Egypt did not hesitate for a moment to support the Iraqi revolution. President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, who was returning home from a visit to Yugoslavia, went to the Soviet Union where he spent many hours in discussion with Mr Khrushchev on the Middle East situation and measures to protect the Iraqi revolution.

42. Egypt did not retreat despite the assaults of the Iraqi revolution during the trial of al-Mihdawi. Egypt also made great efforts to protect Lebanon's independence and integrity against the Israeli attack of 1967. Egypt moved her armed forces to the border with Israel to defend the Syrian front immediately on being told by the Soviet Ambassador of the build-up of Israeli forces.

43. Egypt played a prominent role in the Arab Maghreb, supporting the struggle of the peoples of Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Mauritania. She backed Tunisian and Moroccan liberation movements till independence was achieved in 1956.

44. Egypt's support of the Algerian revolution, both politically and militarily, was so effective that France came to participate in the 1956 attack on Egypt. France knew that the Algerian revolution would be destroyed if the Egyptian revolution were destroyed. The French prime minister, Mr Guy Mollet, announced that an attack on Cairo would bring about the end of the Algerian revolution. But the victory of the Egyptian revolution brought about the success of the Algerian [revolution].

45. Egyptian success in face of the aggression encouraged the Algerian revolution which stepped up its efforts till Algeria achieved independence. Egypt's political, military, financial and technical aid was continued even after Algerian independence in order to help overcome the problems left behind.

46. Somalia obtained its independence in 1960 with effective Egyptian support for the struggle of the Somali people and their right to self-determination. The assassination of Egypt's representative on the UN Consultative Council in Somalia on April 16th, 1957, provides the finest example of Egypt's dedication to the fight for liberty and independence of the Arab and African countries.

47. Egypt went beyond all the conventional limits in supporting the revolution of the Northern Yemen in 1962 by sending thousands of Egyptian soldiers, in response to an appeal from the revolution's leaders for support against the remnants of Hamid-al-Din family.

On Course

48. In spite of the high cost and the great challenges, Egypt continued on her course, believing that this would help strengthen Arab unity especially after the failure of the union with Syria. Egypt did not leave Yemen before the revolution there was in a secure position although she was attacked in 1967 and was in dire need of every soldier fighting on behalf of the Yemeni revolution.

49. The Egyptian presence in Yemen and the success of the revolution there encouraged the liberation movements in Aden against the British authorities, particularly so since Egyptian aid was within easier reach.

50. With increased Egyptian aid after 1963, the revolution was strengthened and was finally able to proclaim a republic in 1967. This was the direct result of the role of the Egyptian Armed Forces in Northern Yemen, as has been confirmed by officials in Aden.

51. Egypt was also the main power urging the Arab countries to stand up to Iraqi ambitions in Kuwait. The dispatch of units of the Armed Forces to Kuwait in September 1961, as a token of the Egyptian presence, helped protect Kuwaiti independence. Egyptian presence, helped protect Kuwaiti independence. Egypt played a similar role in the other Gulf states and was at the forefront in defence of the rights of those states at the United Nations as well as in the face of the greed of other states both within and without the Arab region.

52. Briefly, the Egyptian revolution, announced by the voice of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat on July 23rd, 1952, took place when the Arab world was far from being independent. Egypt can take pride that today, in the same area, the flags of 22 independent Arab countries have been hoisted.

Unique

53. Egypt's unique position in the Arab world, both qualitatively and quantitatively, derives from historical, political and economic factors which are recognised and accepted by the Arabs, as well as from her pioneering role in leading the Arab countries by various ways and means to advancement.

54. This fact applies to the goal which is dearest to the Arabs, that of Arab unity, in all its stages from a recognition of similarities and differences and an attempt at co-ordinating to co-operation and various forms of unity culminating in total integration.

55. If we examine the most outstanding efforts at establishing Arab unity since the Second World War, we would find that Egypt has always been the first to initiate such moves. She has, moreover, been overcome by neither failure nor success.

56. The idea of Arab nationalism has been inhibited in modern Egypt by a number of factors. One is that Arab nationalism is incompatible with Islamic solidarity. Another relates to British attempts to isolate Egypt from the other Arab countries. The aim of the Egyptian national movement to establish unity of the Nile Valley and the effect of the Western culture on a number of educated Egyptians who looked towards the Mediterranean and Europe are yet other factors that militated against the Arab nationalist notion.

57. But though all these factors delayed the emergence of Arab nationalism, they were not able to hide the genuine Arab character of Egypt. Developments in the Arab area, moreover, helped to consolidate relations between Egypt and the other parts of the Arab nation.

58. Although the Egyptian cause the aim of unity of the Nile Valley largely distracted the Egyptian political parties from Arab action, [clause as published] the Arab cause, nevertheless, attracted their attention with the start of the establishment of Israel in the heart of the Arab nation, large parts of whose land were under foreign occupation at this time.

59. In any case, even though Egypt's affiliation to the Arab world was apparent before the 1952 Revolution, the latter established Egypt's Arab identity and wrote it into Egypt's constitution in 1956. Revolutionary Egypt's first concern was for the Arab entity, and it set a dual goal for Arab endeavours--Arab nationalism and Arab unity.

60. Egypt's position in the Arab world of being the largest power strategically and culturally, makes her the only state able to work for the establishment of Arab unity.

61. The official Egyptian drive for the formation of the Arab League was preceeded by the Egyptian popular movement and the hope of the Arab leaders and peoples that Egypt would take the leadership.

Parliament

62. Other Egyptian moves began with the statement of the Egyptian prime minister before the Egyptian Parliament on March 30, 1943. The prime minister said "I found that the best way to reach the target is to discuss the topic with the various Arab governments. My study revealed that the Egyptian Government should contact the Arab governments separately and sound out their views on the issue. Then Egypt should call for an unofficial meeting to discuss the topic. If that succeeds, then a meeting should be held in Egypt under the chairmanship of the Egyptian head of government to continue the discussions.

63. According to this, the Egyptian prime minister had urged the other Arab prime ministers to discuss the establishment of Arab unity, but differences of opinions had appeared. Lebanon had agreed to co-operate if its independence were assured. Yemen and Saudi Arabia agreed to co-operate in the fields of culture and economy but would postpone political co-operation. Iraq wanted to implement the Fertile Crescent plan first, while Syria had agreed on immediate central unity.

64. The contacts of the Egyptian Government resulted in a meeting in Alexandria from September 25 to October 7, 1944, and the signing of the Alexandria protocol for the establishment of "The Arab League," a name proposed by Egypt. The political committee, formed under the terms of the Alexandria protocol, held a number of meetings at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry from March 17 to April 3, to prepare the Charter of the Arab League. The final form of the charter was discussed by a special committee at al-Za'faran Palace, in Cairo, in the light of the proposals of Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Badawi. The charter was finally drawn up on March 19, 1945.

On March 22, 1945, three days only after the approval of the charter in its final form, the Arab general conference held a meeting at al-Za'faran Palace, chaired by the Egyptian prime minister, at which the charter of the Arab League was signed.

65. Egypt had thus played a major role in the establishment of the Arab League and had accommodated its headquarters. Egypt also provided most of the personnel of the Arab League's secretariat and provided most of the budget.

66. In the same spirit, Egypt called for the establishment of the various off-shoot bodies of the Arab League. These were either mentioned in the league charter, or in the Joint Defence Pact among the Arab countries, or were bodies established through decrees or under Arab international agreements.

67. Egypt was always the first state to take part in the establishment of the various Arab specialised bodies to the economic, cultural, scientific and technical spheres. Cairo also provided the headquarters of most of these specialised bodies.

Banner

68. In order to stand up to imperialist power in the Arab area prior to the 1956 Suez War, Egypt raised the banner of Arab unity regardless of the political, social and economic systems of the Arab states.

69. When Iraq joined the Baghdad Pact in 1955, Egypt had to work for the establishment of another form of unity based on the organisation of the Arab military forces first. This took the form of military agreement with Syria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Jordan. The new policy succeeded in getting Arab national power to face up to foreign dominated pacts, especially the Baghdad Pact.

70. Egyptian-Syrian union was one of the most prominent experiments in unity between Arab countries. Egypt agreed to union with Syria although she knew that a number of prerequisites for the success of the experiment were missing. Egyptian-Syrian unity faced the following problems:

a) The antagonism of the imperialist powers to the union and the efforts of the profiteers to cause its failure. King Sa'ud and King Husayn played an active role in this as they later confessed.

b) The absence of an effective popular system to give democratic support to the action for union.

c) The conspiracy between the Ba'th and the civil to destroy the union.

71. Despite this, the Egyptian-Syrian union will remain one of the most prominent experiments in union in the modern history of the Arab nation. For it proved that unity can become a reality and served to uncover the conflicts in the area.

72. After the Iraqi movement of February 8, 1963, and the Syrian movement of March 8, 1963, Egypt agreed to hold talks for a tripartite unity with the two countries. The talks were held in Cairo in three parts, from March 14 to April 17, 1963. They resulted in the signing of an agreement on unity which covered the general principles for the organisation of the new state as regards political, economic and social affairs, in a form compatible with the systems of government in the three countries. The agreement also included a number of transitional and general articles.

73. But the positions of the Ba'th Party in Damascus, which was supported by the Ba'th of Iraq, ensured that the articles of the unity agreement would be violated by the rulers of Syria. The best example of this had been the neglect by the Syrian authorities, of the political side of the agreement, which consisted of a unified leadership and political action. In addition, the Ba'th Party kept the top positions for its members, forgetting the other parties to the union. It also dismissed the pro-union Nasirite officers, thus destroying the foundations of the unity agreement.

74. At the beginning of the 1970's, Egypt initiated another effort for union. This was represented in the Confederation of Arab Republics and the Egyptian-Libyan Union. On April 17, 1971, the presidents of Egypt, Syria and Libya proclaimed the establishment of the Confederation of Arab Republics. The proclamation stated that the move had resulted from the belief of the three presidents that the establishment of such a unity would mobilise Arab potential for the establishment of a unified, socialist society. The proclamation also stated that the door was open for any other Arab country to join the Confederation of Arab Republics.

75. Egypt started negotiations for unity with Libya in 1972, and according to what was set out in the union statement, the two countries agreed on the establishment of complete unity, 'as soon as that was possible,' between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Republic. The statement also said that the Egyptian and the Libyan revolutions had the same targets, liberty, socialism and unity, which are the factors required for securing the best future for the Arab nation.

76. Although the two bids for union failed because the positions taken up by al-Qadhdhafi of Libya and the Syrian Ba'th Party, the experiment in unified Arab action which Egypt had brought about during the October War, succeeded in achieving its goals as represented in unified military action with Syria against Israel.

77. In spite of the establishment of this unified front and the success achieved on the Egyptian front, the Syrian leaders, nevertheless, deviated from their commitment to unified action to the extent of even contacting the Soviet Union two days before the start of the war in order to secure a cease-fire at the earliest possible moment. Syria did not consult its partner, Egypt, onthis, and thus destroyed any possibility for the establishment of a unified front.

78. Nevertheless, Egypt continued to secure common Arab strategic action, which manifested itself in the Tripoli Pact and in enhanced relations with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. Describing this stage, President as-Sadat said: "We are all waging a fateful pan-Arab battle. The circumstances of the battle and history make Egypt its main base while Saudi Arabia holds 60 percent of the total reserves of Arab oil. Should Egypt's military power and the Saudi oil weapon collaborate, things could be done more effectively. [no close quotations published]

Trends

79. So, the common Arab action that As-Sadat's Egypt led was characterized by a strengthening of the Arab countries rather than a classifying of them as reactionary, progressive, monarchical and the like, which could lead to conflicting axes. [paragraph continues]

Instead, Egypt sought to gather all the Arabs together, irrespective of their varying social and political trends and their economic and financial conditions. Egypt's motto was "we are all Arabs in the face of our destiny."

80. In his speech in 1974, President as-Sadat said "Those who have been talking about our siding with some Arab countries rather than others, are still influenced by the thread-base theory of axes.

81. It is deplorable that some Arab countries failed to adopt Egypt's policy. They were still ruled by narrow-minded, partisan, trends. They set out to aggravate their own complexes with regard to Egypt, which is adequately qualified to lead Arab action. This led some power-seekers to delude themselves that, in order to realise their goals, they should try to isolate Egypt from the Arab world, or the other way around apparently.

82. Modern Arab history testifies that the first Arab leaders' meeting was the one called for by the Egyptian Government in Inshas in May 1945, which was attended by kings and heads of state of those Arab countries that were independent at the time. It was revolutionary Egypt which called for the holding of Arab summit conferences. She even hosted the first two summits.

Feeble

83. In 1963, the Arab world watched Israel's move to divert the course of the River Jordan. The Arab countries adjacent to the river failed to act either because of their feeble political will or lack of defensive capacilities. This was clearly demonstrated at the meetings of the chiefs-of-staff of the Arab armies, which took place in Cairo in the autumn of 1965.

84. In the face of these threats and hazards, President an-Nasir called for Arab summits, which later became a manifestation of pan-Arab action. They were designed to head off imminent threats posed to all Arab countries. They, nevertheless, allowed each the right to stick to his own ideology and outlook towards the prevailing socio-political conditions in the Arab world.

85. The Israeli aggression on Arab waters was the pre-occupation of the Arab leaders at the time of the first Arab summit, which was held in Cairo in January 1964. The resolutions of the summit, which was called "The Council of the Kings and Heads of State of the Arab League Countries" stressed this concern. The council said, "Decisions have been taken to meet the imminent Zionist threat, in the defensive and technical fields and in organising the Palestinian people to enable them to liberate their homeland and ensure their right to self-determination."

86. In September 1964, Egypt hosted the second Arab summit in Alexandria, where the kings and heads of state re-affirmed the communique of the first summit. It was decided to hold periodic summits every year in September. This second summit highlighted and "liberation of Palestine" as an ultimate goal, which necessitates an over-all plan worked out by the commander-in-chief within a year. During this period all Arab potentials were to be mustered and each country was to be given a specific assignment. This liberation of Palestine was meant to restore to the Palestinian people their national rights. This was candidly expressed in the plan of the Arab League Secretariat-General upon which Arab international contacts were contacted. The plan, in short, called for the implementation of the UN resolution of 1947, which pertains to the partition of Palestine into two states: one Arab, the other Jewish.

87. Egypt took part in the third Arab summit conference, which took place in Rabat in September 1965. At this conference, kings and heads of state resolved to "adhere to the Arab Solidarity Pact in order to stress common principles towards the good of the basic causes and high national interests."

88. In the wake of the July 1967 defeat, and in spite of massive disruption in the Arab world, Egypt once again, took the lead and called for the continuation of the Arab struggle. It called for a fourth Arab summit in Khartoum, in August the same year, to discuss the Arab situation and to work out a common Arab plan to liquidate the consequences of aggression. The Arab countries reiterated their determination to stand up to the fateful challenges and shoulder their responsibilities. So, they adopted three clear-cut "No's" against Israel, namely, "no reconciliation, no negotiations, no recognition."

They highlighted their committment to the Palestinian people's right to a homeland and decided financially to strengthen the Arab front-line states to enable them to stand up to the battle. The Arab countries, moreover, considered the possibility of using Arab petroleum as a positive weapon.

89. In December 1969, Egypt took part in the fifth Arab summit in Rabat. The conference ended with no results. The final speech of the king of Morocco obviously highlighted war against Israel and the establishment of a Palestinian entity as a prime concern.

'Black September'

90. Ten months later, Cairo exerted tremendous efforts to convene a meeting of ten Arab kings and heads of state in order to save the Palestinian people from annihilation in Jordan, which was described by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the "Black September massacre." Thousands of casualties were caused by the action of King Husayn. Egyptian efforts were crowned by the "Cairo Accords," which stipulated the termination of all military operations by the Jordanian Armed Forces against the Palestinian resistance. President an-Nasir, who exerted painstaking efforts at this conference, made clear the Egyptian position based on "halting bloodshed in Jordan, soothing pains, guaranteeing the presence and activity of the Palestinian forces, enhancing the Palestinian struggle, ending the explosive situation and mobilizing all Arab potentials against Israel. [no close quotations published]

91. In the course of bidding farewell to the conferees on September 28, 1970, an-Nasir died. He passed away fighting for the Palestinian people and their right to exist, their right to their own identity and to live as masters in their own land. This he did in spite of the slander and treachery to which both he and Egypt were subjected by the PLO in Amman just two months before the massacre, for his acceptance of the Rogers' initiative when he saw the Soviet Union balking at taking a positive stand.

One-Upmanship

92. While the Palestinian people were being preyed upon by the masters of one-upmanship and blood-suckers, Egypt continued her struggle to give the Palestinians a forum in both Arab and international arenas. President as-Sadat thus told the Palestianian Council in 1972: "It is high time for a Palestinian government-in-exile to which Egypt would extend immediate recognition. [no close quotations published]

93. In the wake of 1973 war, Egypt and Syria invited the kings and heads of state of Arab League countries to a meeting to study Arab and international post-war atitudes. The sixth Arab summit was held in Algiers in November 1973 where conferees stressed that the October war was a manifestation of Arab determination to liberate the occupied territories whatever the price. [paragraph cortinues]

The conference stated that, "in the 1973 war, the Egyptian and Syrian Armed Forces and the Palestinian resistance, aided by other Arab troops, have inflicted heavy losses on the Israeli aggressors. Thanks to this battle, the Arab nations and governments have become more aware of their responsibilities as well as their human and material capabilities."

94. The statement issued by the sixth Arab summit affirmed a number of conditions for the establishment of peace, including two main pre-requisites; Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories--with Jerusalem at the top and the restoration of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

95. The seventh Arab summit, which was held in Rabat in October 1974, and also attended by Egypt, worked out the phases of the Arab nation's goal: liberation of all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, full commitment to the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, and recognition of the PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Homeland

96. The conference, moreover, stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and a homeland, their right to maintain an independent national authority under the PLO (sole representative of the Palestinian people) on any part Palestinian land to be liberated, and their right to support the PLO in the exercise of its responsibilities at both Arab and international levels.

97. When the Lebanese crisis erupted in 1975, Egypt contributed to its solution through common Arab action under the auspices of the Arab League. Ever since, Egypt has helped the Arab League face the crisis. She attended the six-nation summit conference, which convened in Riyadh in October 1976, to help find a solution to the problem. The conference called for an immediate cease-fire after 20 months of fighting, the strengthening of Arab peace-keeping forces, and implementation of the Cairo Accord.

98. Egypt then hosted the eighth Arab summit, which was held in Cairo that same month. The conference categorically rejected the partition of Lebanon and stressed the need to maintain the Palestinian resistance and implement the Cairo Accord.

99. These resolutions came at the start of a less tense stage in the Lebanese crisis, which had claimed 25,000 Lebanese and 10,000 Palestinian lives and double the number of wounded. The massacre of Tel El-Zaater provided clear evidence of the blood-bath to which the Syrian forces were subjecting the Palestinian people.

100. History is a good recorder of the parts played by countries. And it was Egypt who laid the foundation stone of common Arab action, fought for a pan-Arab unity and developed this political line as a means of confronting plots aimed at usurping Arab rights. Egypt will stick to principles and pan-Arabism. She will keep on giving and giving as she always has, for there can be no common Arab action without Egypt.

EGYPT'S ROLE IN LIBERATING ARAB ECONOMY

101. It was necessary to carry on Egypt's efforts to liberate the Arab nation from political and military colonialism, which was the basis for common Arab action, especially after the surfacing of the social and economic dimensions of the July 23rd Revolution. The aim was to free Arab wealth from foreign economic hegemony and manipulation. The West had been exploiting Arab wealth for imperialist interests, regardless of the need of the Arab people to keep abreast of development in the interest of their future prosperity and welfare.

102. The Egyptian reaction to British and Western colonialism in general during the 1956 Suez crisis was a political reaction to Western exploitation of peoples' resources. Egypt's contribution was to highlight the fact that economic independence supplements political sovereignty. Egypt's action emphasised that political independence must be strengthened by an independent economy based on full command over national resources that were directed towards the betterment of the vast majority rather than the ruling minority.

103. Egypt's nationalisation of the Suez Canal, along with other experiences, was an example of the rich legacy the Arab liberation movement earned from its struggle against foreign power. The experience which served to integrate political and economic sovereignty helped support the right of the developing countries to full and permanent command over natural resources of the developing countries. This principle was accorded legal international recognition by the United Nations and its organisations more than 20 years ago.

104. The nationalisation of the Suez Canal was a pioneer experience whose influence spread throughout the Arab area and the Third World. It was a spark which immediately spread a flame throughout the developing countries, "always reminding them that national resources belong to them by right, never to be monopolised."

105. The race for the Suez Canal, with its world political and strategic importance, was but part of a broader and more complex conflict between the national revolution in the area and imperialism and foreign power. The nationalisation of the canal manifested a preliminary demand for the restoration of Egyptian national sovereignty. It signified that the area and the entire Third World had embarked on a process of basic political changes in their relations with the rest of the world.

106. Full economic command over the exploitation of their national resources was one of the main objectives for which the Arab and other developing countries struggled. Arab oil reserves had, for long, been monopolised by a handful of multi-national companies until the Suez Canal was nationalised. The canal's nationalisation heralded the end of foreign political and commercial power over Third World resources. "Arab oil should be for the Arabs" was a slogan Egypt was the first to raise.

107. The Egyptian role was not confined merely to highlighting the political national struggle to place Arab resources at the disposal of Arab development. For October War then followed to unmask conflicts in the area which are concerned with Arab petroleum in particular. [sentence as published] One of the direct political and military fruits of this war [was] that the Arabs could, once and for all, change the power structure. They nationalised their petroleum, raised its price and controlled its production.

108. One of the noteworthy changes brought about by the October War was its far-reaching impact on oil as an economic tool for political pressure. Another, was using the gradual cut-off of oil to change the nature of the economic and political relations between the Arab oil-producing countries and the advanced Western states.

109. The October War led to soaring oil prices and to the accumulation of vast funds by the Arab oil-producing countries. This changing of the price mechanism brought about changes in the prices of raw materials and manufactured goods.

110. The price of oil, the No 1 raw material exported by the Arab world, soared to $12 a barrel in December 1973 against just $3 before the first ten days of the October War.

111. The financial reserves of the Arab oil-producing states leapt to $5.858 billion by the end of 1971, $7.465 billion in 1972, $10.218 billion in 1973, $25.785 billion in 1974 (following a price-hike and increasing demand $33.667 billion in 1975 and $36.726 billion in 1976.

112. This led to an increase in world financial reserves: From 4.4 percent in 1971, 4.7 percent in 1972, 5.6 percent in 1973, 11.7 percent in 1974, 14.8 percent in 1975 to 15.4 percent by the end of June, 1976.

113. Accumulated Arab funds can be estimated at $500 billion in 1980 and should rise to $1.050 billion in 1985. The most conservative estimates (either by the World Bank or the U.S. Administration) predict an accumulation of $230 billion in 1980.

114. It was thanks to the October War that the nature of the relationship between the industrial states and the raw material producers has changed.

115. A comprehensive assessment of Egypt's contribution in this sphere highlights a basic fact: that Egypt brought about an economic revolution in the area and the world at large. A decisive step was taken to establish a new international economic system based on bridging the ever-widening gap between the advanced industrial world and the developing countries, and establishing fairer economic relations in the interest of stepping up the process of development.

116. These were the regional and world impacts of Egypt's move to exercise full control over her resources and, through her glorious victory, to boost Arab development, liberate Arab territories and regain for the Palestinian people their legitimate rights.

117. Egypt, moreover, stood against the existing economic system, which is based on the sovereignty and supremacy of the industrial nations. The largest gathering of the developing countries took place in Cairo in 1963, when those countries met to declare their common interests. This prompted an international trade and development conference, at which Egypt was elected chairman, not out of courtesy, but in appreciation of her efficiency in protecting the interests of the developing nations. This represented a resumption of the struggle initiated by the 1963 Cairo conference.

Long Road

118. The UN Trade and Development Conference in 1964 was the first step on the long road to establish a new economic order in which both the developing and the developed nations have participated as equal partners to lay the foundations of a new system of economic relations. This has put an end to an era when the wealthy developed countries imposed their will to secure more wealth for their peoples while the poor of the world, the developing countries, grew still poorer.

119. Egypt has been at the forefront over two decades in the dialogue between the developed nations of the Northern Hemisphere and the developing ones of the South.

120. While Egypt always held that economic independence was part and parcel of political sovereignty, and that they have always been two indivisible elements of a country's independence, it never acted out of selfishness or limited personal interests. This exemplary conduct was reflected in the nationalisation of the Suez Canal, which Egypt has guaranteed as a waterway for international trade, especially for sisterly Arab countries to transport their petroleum and for the easy flow of goods between the developing and industrialised countries.

121. After Egypt blocked the Suez Canal because of the Israeli occupation of its territory, it moved with the same spirit to reopen the canal so as to relieve the pressure on other countries resulting from the diversion of trade routes. Egypt aimed, above all, to secure the interests of the developing countries which had been affected by the blocking of the Suez Canal. [paragraph continues]

In this respect, Egypt has never attempted to blackmail the world nor did it keep the trade of the developing countries as the "hostage of self-interests." On the contrary, as soon as the re-opening of the canal was feasible, Egypt hurried to re-open the international waterway in 1975. Now, all the countries of the world enjoy its benefits, and the racist regime in South Africa is deprived of the benefits of trade passing by the cape.

122. In short, Egypt has been taking an active part in liberating Arab economies. Not only by setting the example, and serving the interests of developing countries in the dialogue between the rich and the poor, but also, which is more important, through the contribution of its scientists and skilled manpower to the development of the Arab world. But for Egyptian scientists experts and skilled workers, petro-dollars would not have transformed the Arab economy from a state of under-development to one of development.

123. History has already recorded Egypt's prime role in liberating and uniting the Arab world in the march towards economic liberation. It also still believes in championing the concept of the Arab entity which can affect the course of events in a world of intermingled relations, actions and reactions. Political independence and the handling of economic resources was but a prelude to the Egyptian-inspired move of giving the Arabs an important and separate role at the international level, a role which is based on certain characteristics that crystalised during the liberation experience, a role which interacts with world events and international strategy.

Interaction

124. Egypt's view of this interaction was not confined to mere reaction or just playing minor roles. On the contrary, Egypt uses its cultural, intellectual and political weight to project the area to which it belongs. Accordingly, it has been fighting all the political and diplomatic battles against all forms of domination. Egypt has been fighting for liberation development and human rights. It has thus been at the vanguard of a new world power, neither Western nor Eastern, which only worked to project the Arab identity in all international gatherings and circles. This has granted Egypt a unique position as the centre of attraction and a model to be followed by Arab countries should they want to adopt Egypt's attitude.

125. Egypt's role has been constant, manifold in many areas of international relations. Moreover, its effects have reverberated throughout the world. This resulted in projecting the Arab identity. We are not just speaking haphazardly, since Egypt's role in combatting imperialist alliances, in setting up the Nonaligned Movement and its role in establishing a socialist democracy cannot be ignored.

126. Since the end of World War II, the start of the cold war, and the rise of strategic alliances, Egypt has been committed to rejecting any alliance with the West, which would have supported the British occupation of the Suez Canal base as that would have also inevitably affected the Arab cause. In this regard, Egypt rejected the proposed Middle East defence league, which the governments of Britain, France, the United States of America, and Turkey proposed to Egypt on October 13, 1951. The plan aimed at establishing a defence pact for the Middle East, in which Egypt would participate together with other Arab countries, South Africa and New Zealand.

127. Egypt's rejection of this proposal was based on the fact that it aimed at keeping the country tied to the wheel of imperialist domination. Moreover it aimed at giving Israel the opportunity to participate, a matter which the Arab peoples categorically rejected. The Egyptian view, by then, was that the defence of the area should be from within the framework of the Arab League and the Common Defence Pact, signed within the Arab League in 1950.

128. This stand became crystal clear under the administration of the July 23rd Revolution in 1952. This was practically implemented when Egypt carried out the Common Defence Pact in letter and spirit.

129. In reply to Egypt's stand, the West offered the Baghdad Pact, as part of the United States strategy to contain the Soviet Union by means of a number of alliances.

130. The proposal to establish the Baghdad Pact came through the Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Sa'id in mid-1954. He suggested expanding the Arab Common Defence Pact into an alliance covering the whole area together with Iran, Pakistan and Turkey. Those countries would also have joined with the two central states of the Western alliance, i.e. Britain and the United States of America.

The actual beginning of the pact crystallised when both Iraq and Turkey struck up a common defence agreement in 1955. They intended to call Egypt to join the agreement through their future contacts with the Egyptian authorities.

131. Egypt's view was that Iraq, even before signing the agreement, should be persuaded to refrain from adopting Western views on the security of the Middle East. Even more, Egypt suggested supporting the common Arab security system and offered to provide Iraq with the military aid that Turkey had pledged to provide on condition that Iraq committed itself to Arab policy. However, Iraq refused to approve the arrangement.

132. Egypt's role in the Arab League was so effective that it foiled Iraqi attempts to persuade any other Arab country to join the alliance, especially the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, which had been the target of heavy British pressure. Thanks to the Egyptian and Jordanian peoples, the British pressures on Jordan had been thwarted.

133. In this respect, Egypt confronted the Western alliance by asking the Arab peoples what they thought of the Iraqi attitude, especially since the issue pertained to the future security of the whole Arab world. Egypt made a comparison between Iraq's involvement with the alliance and the old nonaggression and protection agreements between big and small countries. On the other hand, Egypt exploited the organic relations between the West and Israel to unravel before the eyes of the Arabs the nature of such alliances, which made the Arab masses reject them categorically.

134. The second way which Egypt adopted to confront the alliance and achieve equilibrium in the area was to conclude a number of military agreements with Saudi Arabia on October 27, 1955, with Syria on November 1, 1955 and with both Saudi Arabia and Yemen on April 21, 1956.

135. The unification of the Egyptian and Jordanian armed forces' efforts and the coordination between the two countries to defend the interests of the Arab nation was proclaimed on May 5, 1967. Another Egyptian-Saudi-Jordanian military pact was worked out. [sentence as published] In this way Egypt had managed to mobilise official and popular Arab opposition against the Iraqi involvement in themmilitary alliance of Baghdad. Meanwhile she had been able to conclude a number of Arab agreements to defend Arab territory.

136. The July 14, 1958 Iraqi revolution put an end to that country's dealings with the alliance. Then on March 24, 1959, Iraq announced its final withdrawal from the Baghdad Pact and nonalignment won the battle.

137. As for Egypt's founding role in the Nonaligned Movement, neutral trends had begun in Egypt before the July Revolution. An example can be given of Egypt's attitude towards the Korean problem. When the problem was discussed at the UN General Assembly on June 30th, 1950, Egypt refused to support the American stand. This indicated the potential of Egypt's influence in the Arab world, as the policy of nonalignment was connected with the issue of defending the Middle East and rejecting any connection with either of the two power blocs.

138. The Egyptian-Indian Friendship Treaty of April 7, 1955 and that between Egypt and Czechoslovakia, with all their afteraffects in the Arab world, helped to crystallise the Egyptian nonaligned stand resulting in deeper influence on Arab masses. This, on the other hand, stimulated the Western powers to exert economic pressure on Egypt, which accelerated the outbreak of the Suez War.

139. The Berioni conference in Yugoslavia in July 1956, constituted the real start of the Nonalignment Movement, as the conference brought together the original leadership of the movement (An-Nasir-Nehru-Tito). The impact of this conference proved to be world-wide and not confined to any one continent. It indicated that concepts of nonalignment trends prevaded the whole of what is called the Third World.

140. The first conference of nonaligned countries was held in Belgrade on September 1, 1961. It brought together the heads of state of 25 countries, which met the criteria of nonalignment agreed upon in the preparatory conference which was held in Cairo from the 5th to the 12th of June, 1961, to define the basis of nonalignment.

141. The criteria of the Nonalignment Movement can be summerised in the following five points: Adoption of independent policies based on peaceful coexistence and refraining from joining either of the two principal blocs, helping national liberation movements avoiding collective alliances, avoiding bilateral alliances with the two superpowers, rejecting the establishment of foreign military bases.

Cold War

142. The Belgrade conference met at the height of cold war tension, reflected in nuclear tests by both the superpowers. Therefore, the main concern of the conference was to de-fuse the tense international situation and maintain world peace.

143. The new policy attracted the attention of newly liberated countries. So the second nonalignment conference, held in Cairo from the 5th to the 10th of October, 1964, was attended by heads of state of 47 countries, which indicated the expansion of the movement.

Foreign military bases in Africa and Asia were discussed among other things at the conference. Certain questions about the conception of nonalignment were raised especially as regards the political system in a certain country and its relationship to nonalignment. In addition those major issues, the conference dealt with the problems of underdevelopment and development.

144. Close analysis of Egyptian policy during the various stages of the Nonalignment Movement shows that Egypt has always been an effective pioneer. Together with India and Yugoslavia, Egypt has always been partner in a trio at the head of the movement. It has always had its cultural and political influence in the Arab world within the fixed attitudes of Arab countries.

145. In its relations with the Nonalignment Movement, Egypt has always been keen to safeguard the independence of the movement, which has been exposed to two sorts of dangers: Firstly, the expansion of the move which paved the way for countries, not accurately meeting conditions of membership, to join the movement.

This exposed the movement to the dangers of disruption as well as superpower influence. By then the Third World countries were struggling to get their political and economic independence. They were in confrontation with the Western bloc and the imperialist monopolies, which were clinging to their worn-out attitudes. This was an opportunity for the Eastern bloc to ride the wave and consolidate its relations with the Nonaligned Movement.

146. The other danger which threatened the Nonaligned Movement was that arising from the tendencies of those countries, with ideological and real connections with the Eastern bloc, which joined the movement and began to call for an alliance with the Eastern bloc. Some of the countries which are keen to preserve the genuine identity of the movement, have been resisting those trends. Egypt plays a leading role in this regard.

147. This basic difference openly revealed itself at the nonalignment conference in Havana, Cuba in September 1979, as the minority allied with the Eastern bloc managed to impose their opinions on the movement in such a way as to drive it along a dangerous road which threatens its existence and entire philosophy. Again Egypt, a founder member of the movement, undertook the task of creating and assembling nonaligned public opinion to confront the attempts to polarise the Nonalignment Movement towards one of the superpowers. Egypt therefore urged the nonaligned countries to defy the attempts of the minority to deviate the Nonaligned Movement from the letter and spirit of its philosophy.

148. The expansion of the movement, from Egypt's point of view, was to make it more powerful, not to disrupt or destroy it. Whether the attempts to break up the movement came from without or from within, Egypt's stand was, and shall always be, to resort to reconciliation rather than confrontation to realise the movement's goal of keeping world peace.

149. Egypt struggled to lay the foundations of the Nonaligned Movement and pursue the right path to realise its genuine objectives. Likewise, Egypt has been convinced of its pioneer role in the Arab world. Therefore, it has undertaken to give the example of a system of government which guarantees political development and secures stability in the area.

To this end, Egypt has embarked upon the development of democratic socialism in the Arab world, as a system of moderation which safeguards the independence, security and welfare of the Arab nation after long suffering under military occupation and economic exploitation.

150. If we follow the evolution of the political system in Egypt since the Declaration of Independence on February 28th, 1922, we can distinguish three stages of the Egyptian democratic experience: parliamentary democracy from 1923 to 1952, the one-party system of democracy between 1952 and 1971 and democratic socialism from the May 15th Corrective Revolution in 1971.

151. During the first stage, Egypt adopted liberal democracy in accordance with the 1923 Constitution, although the constitution was suspended many times. This experience of liberal democracy could not, however, bring the desired result.

In general, the causes of failure can be attributed to the alien nature of the experience, as it was almost a copy of constitutions, political and partisan systems, which in the main came from European modes of political thought. This besides the deviation of the leaders, who undertook the tasks of political action, from the principles of the 1919 Revolution.

152. The second stage from 1952 to 1970 was one-party democracy which depended on the adoption of a totalitarian system and one-party socialist systems.

153. Again, the democratic experience failed, as it was reduced to mere practices which depended on the supremacy of the minority or the rise of centres of power. Democracy became a slogan or a guise behind which the dominating minority managed the policy of the country in accordance with their personal tendencies, regardless of any rule of law. The regime, moreover, followed an economic policy which helped neither way: it did not alleviate poverty nor did it boost development.

The Corrective Revolution of May 15th, 1971, marked the third stage of the democratic experience in Egypt. The new democratic practice in Egypt aims at achieving a portion of the requirements of social justice and the needs of public freedom under the rule of law. It is a human democracy, based on the rights of man. It safeguards faith and protects the family and individual property. It is a democracy that derives its principles from the teachings of religion.

It is, then, a moderate democracy which rejects scientific socialism based on the inevitability of bloody revolution and the supremacy of one class over the other. Our democracy meanwhile rejects liberalism which leaves the door open for all sorts of abuse of freedom, without restrictions. It is a democracy committed to accept a multi-party system together with a law regulating the activities of political parties. This law is applicable to all parties without prejudice.

155. [number as published] Though the objective of the Corrective Revolution was to realise a sound democratic life for the sake of Egypt and its people, it meanwhile has its broader national aspect. The Arab countries around us have undergone one or the other of the two experiences which Egypt previously tested.

Certain Arab countries follow the Western capitalist system in addition to various degrees of liberalism without certain elements of Western democracy. Other Arab countries try to apply the totalitarian system.

Again Egypt has a key role and a system of democratic socialism which rejects the disadvantages of the systems applied in other Arab countries. In this regard, Egypt follows a path of moderation which secures freedom for the individual while achieving social justice, far from exploitation.

The Leader

Thus, once again Egypt is the leader in working out a system suitable for the Arab community, without resorting to ambiguity or exaggeration. By so doing, Egypt may contribute towards greater understanding and rapproachment between Arab regimes.

156. This summary of what Egypt has been doing to project the true Arab identity is a many-sided representation of farreaching results. Egypt has always been vigilant in the course of its combat with foreign-inspired pacts and in its struggle to establish the policy of nonalignment and develop its progressive philosophy. Meanwhile, Egypt has given an example of complementing political independence with economic independence.

In spite of all the sufferings of the Egyptian people in the past because of their insistence on ideologies and objectives which aimed at projecting and extolling the Arab identity, they are still undertaking their responsibilities and going ahead on the road of struggle. There has been no reneging on, or deviation from, objectives. Such is our destiny and such is the task for which we are qualified. Even when a reformative revolution breaks out in our country to realise the optimum system of government, we behave in the interests of our Arab brethern, across all borders, to do our unselfish best.

157. Ever since the eruption of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and throughout the period from 1948 up until the October 1975 war, Egypt has borne the major burden in the conflict. During this period, Egypt undertook the task of exposing the Zionist danger and mobilising public opinion in the Arab world for this confrontation. Egypt also bore the consequences of direct military confrontation with Israel.

Egypt has undertaken this role--which covers more than one stage of the confrontation--since the outbreak of the July 1952 Revolution.

158. When Arab rulers called for the abrogation of the Balfour Declaration and an end to the British Mandate in Palestine and rejected the UN resolution for the partition of Palestine and declared war on the new state of Israel in 1948, Egypt hastened to pull its weight. Many army officers in Egypt at the time did not hesitate to resign their commissions in order to join in the guerrilla war against Israel. The Arab League had earlier assigned the southern section of Palestine for Egyptian military operations against Israel. An Egyptian battalion comprising a number of those officers who had submitted their resignations from the army or requested early retirement were rushed into Palestine.

159. After war was declared by the Arab states, the Egyptian Army penetrated into Palestine on May 15, 1948. The armies of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq also marched into Palestine.

160. The defeat of Arab armies in this war was inevitable for a number of reasons. Among these were the absence of a Palestinian revolutionary movement (to organise Palestinians), the monopoly of command by a class of phoney leaders like Prince Abdullah of Transjordan who raised the slogan "Intimidation through the invocation of Arab Solidarity" and the subjection of the whole Arab world under the yoke of colonialism both old and new.

Garrisoned

The forces of foreign occupation were garrisoned in various parts of the Arab world. Besides the treachery of some Arab regimes to the Arab cause and the conspiracies they engineered against their peoples whom they supplied with unserviceable weapons together with the intrigues of some Arab imperialist agents who colluded with the Jews or handed over some Arab positions to them helped to bring about this defeat.

161. But despite the defeat incurred by Arab armies in the Palestine war, there were some positive results. The most important of these results was the crystallisation of the revolutionary trend amongst Egyptian officers who took part in the war. Officers realised then that overthrowing the regime and liquidating colonialism in Egypt was a prerequisite for the success of Arab and Egyptian efforts to confront Israel. This led to the outbreak of the July 23 Revolution in Egypt which was a genuine reaction to the squandering of national and Arab interests.

162. Ever since the outbreak of the July 1952 Revolution, Egypt has been the incontestable leader in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Between 1952 and 1967 Egypt shouldered the major responsibility of mobilising Arab public opinion for the confrontation by highlighting the danger of Israel's existence in the area. Furthermore, Egypt undertook the task of forming an Arab front capable of launching the struggle. It did this at both a local and an Arab level.

163. In pursuing this path, Egypt was concerned with a variety of issues. First, that the Arab-Israeli conflict was motivated by two principal factors; the necessity of restoring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and combatting the real menace posed by Israel to the whole Arab world. Within that context, the Egyptian revolutionary command was keen on affirming that the expansionist mentality of the Israelis would continually urge them to enlarge their state at the expense of other Arab countries.

Highlighting

164. Secondly, Egypt was concerned with highlighting the fact that the real danger of Israel lay in its close relation with Western colonialist powers who used it as a tool for achieving their objective of dividing the Arab world and thereby tightening their control over it.

Egypt was also careful to show that confrontation with Israel necessitated the creation of some kind of united Arab front, or at least some form of co-ordination, as much as it necessitated the establishment of a solid economic base.

165. In the light of the previous considerations, Egypt endeavoured during the period in question to set up a solid national economy and provide a model of socioeconomic development that could be followed by the rest of the Arab world. The revolutionary command in Egypt considered this as vitally important for confrontation.

166. Egypt likewise spared no effort to liquidate centres of imperialist influence in the area and to counteract attempts by the big powers to draw the area into their spheres of influence. Hence the battle of the Egyptian revolution was to combat the policy of imperialist pacts and to establish an autonomous power in the Arab world through which Arab countries could play a positive role under Egypt's guidance within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement.

167. Egypt was also keen on reconciling the policies of different Arab countries and establishing new forms of co-operation and unity between them. These efforts culminated in the Egyptian-Syrian merger of 1958.

168. The Egyptian political action in the fields outlined above had concrete effects in two major directions:

FIRST: It was through Egyptian diplomatic efforts that the Palestinian cause or the issue of Arab-Israeli confrontation rose to the forefront of Arab issues.

SECOND: It became clear that by virtue of the historic role it has played at the vanguard of anticolonialist powers in the area, Egypt represented the main source of danger in the struggle against imperialism and consequently became the first target at which Israel directed all its ensuing attacks.

Tripartite

169. Within this context, the tripartite aggression was launched against Egypt in 1956 by Britain, France and Israel to silence Egypt forever and end her leadership of Arab states confronting colonialism and Israel.

Whatever the details of 1956 might have been, it is certain that Egypt's victory in that battle has affirmed her prime role in the Arab-Israeli confrontation. Egypt's leading role was also confirmed in all developments witnessed by the Arab-Israeli confrontation after 1956. Egypt's call for the convening of the Arab summit of 1963 was motivated by the urgent need to consider the Palestinian cause, to present the issue in all its ramifications to the Arab people in a bid to end all high-sounding slogans.

170. The role played by Egypt during the Israeli aggression of 1967 was nothing but concrete evidence of Egypt's leadership and emphatic proof of her commitments to the Arab world in its confrontation with Israel.

One needs only to follow up Egypt's reaction to this aggression in order to find clear evidence of that.

171. Syria was subjected to a series of limited Israeli acts of aggression some months before June 1967. In May of that year, Israeli threats to Syria assumed a louder and more emphatic tone. Both the Israeli premier and the Israeli chief-of-staff at that time hinted at the possibility of all-out military invasion with the aim of toppling the Syrian Government which hosted Palestinians and encouraged them to continue their struggle. The military invasion contemplated by Israel envisaged the occupation of Damascus. In other words there was a strong possibility that Syria would be subject to a comprehensive military invasion.

On May 8th, 1967, Syria informed President Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir that 19 Israeli battalions were concentrated on its borders. The Soviets soon confirmed the news and conveyed to the Egyptian Government the details of an offensive plan against Syria.

172. The Egyptian reaction to these Israeli threats followed an escalation of military and diplomatic activity. First, Egypt decided on May 13, 1976, to send more Egyptian troops to Sinai.

On May 14th, 1967, the Egyptian Government announced that it had taken measures of military preparedness provided for in the Common Defence Agreement concluded between Egypt and Syria on November 4, 1966. The following day, Egypt declared a state of emergency in the Armed Forces.

173. The second step was accomplished when on May 16, 1967, the command of the Egyptian Armed Forces sent a letter to the commander of the United Nations Forces to the effect that Israel intended to attack Syria and that if Egypt was forced to interfere, the international forces would be subjected to danger, a matter that necessitated their evacuation from border areas, and their withdrawal to Khan Yunis and Rafab.

174. The third step was President an-Nasir's decision of May 22, 1967 to close the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli navigation and to prohibit the passage of strategic materials to Israel through the gulf even if they were carried by non-Israeli ships.

175. The fourth step was considerable Arab diplomatic activity on the international level to put forward the Arab point of view. The same diplomatic efforts were exerted at the Arab level to close the ranks of Arab countries facing Israeli aggression. Most Arab countries responded to this call. A bilateral agreement was signed by Egypt and Jordan on May 30th, 1967, with Iraq joining the agreement on June 4, 1967.

Undermining

176. The Israeli aggression on Egypt on June 5, 1967, was mainly aimed at undermining Egypt's leading role in the whole area and crippling the process of development and modernisation embarked on by Egypt as a solid basis for its role in the confrontation.

177. The military defeat, however, did not force Egypt to renounce her national role, to give up her commitments to the Arab world in general or her commitment to the role it was playing in the Arab-Israeli confrontation in particular. On the contrary, Egypt was keen immediately after the war throughout the years that followed to realise a number of basic aims, foremost among which was the reconstruction of a strong army to defend the country, repel foreign threats, recover the occupied land, defend the national rights of the Arab people.

Efforts to achieve this started from scratch. The defeat of 1967 had eliminated the major part of the Egyptian Army. Little by little, the Egyptian Armed Forces were rebuilt. With the help of these forces Egypt was able to wage the successful war of attrition from 1968 to 1970.

178. Egypt's objective was to mobilise the Arab countries each according to its potential and readiness. Egypt started with the Khartoum Arab summit which decided to give financial support to the confrontation states. This brought about the emergence of unity of which Egypt and Syria were the nucleus. Sudan joined the federation for a time, and so did Libya.

179. In short, Egypt, despite the military defeat, remained true to her Arab commitments, and endeavoured by all possible means at its disposal to eliminate the consequences of this Arab defeat, until the October 1973 War flared up.

180. Egypt's decision to wage war in October 1973 is one of the great landmarks in the history of the world. It was launched in a spirit of sacrifice, out of faith, and determination to regain Arab land and rights.

The decision underlies the leading role Egypt has always played in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

181. The war was a turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict, in so far as it drastically altered the political and strategic conditions in the area and affected contemporary international relations. Since the October War, the whole world has begun to reconsider its attitude towards the area on the basis of the new strategic facts imposed by the outcome of this war. The Egyptian soldier has proved his outstanding skill, under courageous and enlightened leadership.

182. The October War also shattered the basis of the Israeli concept of security.

The mainstay of Israel's security theory before the October War was that its military superiority would always enable it to retain the lands it occupied through military force and what it regarded as its secure borders.

183. The tactics used by the Egyptian Armed Forces during the October 1973 War showed that the Israeli theory of security was unfounded, for Israeli troops had to retreat before our valiant army after incurring heavy losses. Israel came to discover that its continued occupation of Arab land exacted a heavy price it could not accept and that the political, military and psychological shield was not strong enough to protect it, then or at any other time.

184. The October War also stressed the unity of the Arab stand. All Arab resources were pooled in a way very similar to "General Mobilisation" in a single state. The clearest manifestation of Arab unity was the use of the oil weapon, either through reducing production or imposing an embargo on exports and raising the price in the interest of the conflict.

The only exceptions among the Arab countries were Iraq which made an official stand against the Arab boycott and Libya which sold its oil in roundabout ways.

It became clear to the whole Arab nation, for the first time in history, that this natural source of wealth could be used not just to increase income but also as a source of power and political prestige to back up action on the field of battle.

185. The victory achieved by our armed forces in the October War was the principal reason for the convening of the sixth Arab summit in Algeria in 1973 and the seventh summit in Rabat in 1974. Arab leaders met in these summits to lay down a plan to achieve Arab objectives in every sphere. They affirmed their readiness to achieve a just peace on the basis of Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to repatriation and self-determination and the establishment of a self-governing national authority under the command of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

186. Egypt's stand on the Palestinian issue was crowned by the remarkable international victory represented by the resolutions adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1974 with an overwhelming majority of votes in favour of the Palestinians. These resolutions were sponsored by Egypt who requested the United Nations to invite the Palestine Liberation Organisation, as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to participate in the discussion of the rights of the Palestinian people to repatriation and the necessity of regarding the Palestinian people as an essential party in the process of establishing a permanent and just peace in the Middle East.

Egypt also called for granting the PLO observer status at the sessions of the General Assembly and all international conferences held under the auspices of the UN. Thus it can be seen that the October War and Egyptian diplomacy were instrumental in bringing to international prominence the Palestinian identity represented in the Palestine Liberation Organisation which consequently won remarkable international legitmacy.

187. Another significant effect of the October War was that the world witnessed a shift in attitude in favour of Arab rights. The first signs of this change were obvious in the early days of the battle when most NATO countries refused to sanction the use of NATO bases in supplying Israel with weapons through the American airlift. West European countries revised their attitude towards the Middle East crisis as well and became increasingly neutral. The change also extended to relations between the United States and Western Europe. The idea that European security was not identical to American security emerged. This marked the birth of an independent European policy entirely different in many respects from the American standpoint.

188. Another important change at the international level was that several African countries severed diplomatic relations with Israel.

July 1952

189. It can thus be said that from the outbreak of the Egyptian Revolution in July 1952, and throughout the various stages of the Arab-Israeli confrontation, Egypt bore the greatest share in mobilising the Arab nation for a serious action to obtain Arab rights and in mobilising public opinion throughout the world in support of these rights. Egypt also undertook the task of creating the favourable conditions as well as laying the necessary bases for this struggle. It has done this at home through the establishment of a modern army capable of shouldering the biggest burden in the confrontation and the setting up of a sound economic base, as well as at an Arab level as leader of Arab action.

190. Egypt also contributed the biggest share in support of the Palestinians, protecting them from extermination, working consistently to gain for the Palestine Liberation Organisation recognition in the Arab world and the world at large and bearing the military and economic consequences of armed confrontation with Israel.

191. Egypt also bore the biggest burden of explaining the Arab attitude towards confrontation and changing attitudes in the rest of the world towards that confrontation through the October War and then through its consistant efforts for peace which culminated in President as-Sadat's initiative. This initiative mobilised world public opinion in favour of Arab rights in general and the rights of the Palestinian people in particular, and opened the way for achieving a comprehensive and a just settlement based on the restoration of land and rights.

EGYPT'S PEACE-MAKING ROLE

192. The October 1973 War can rightly be considered a turning point in the history of the Arab-Israeli confrontation. The military performance of the Arab soldier during the war shattered the old myth about Israeli's military superiority. The war moreover revealed the real nature of Arab strength and demonstrated the Arab's insistence on regaining their dignity.

193. But one of the most direct results of the October War is a growing awareness among many Arabs and Israelis alike of the fact that the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be finally resolved through force. That naturally has made both parties more conscious than ever of the necessity of ending the conflict through peaceful means.

So it can be said that among the outstanding results of the October War is the impetus it has given to the movement to achieve a comprehensive peace settlement.

194. Hence the significance of President as-Sadat's call for peace in his address to the Egyptian People's Assembly on October 16, 1973 at the point of victory on the battlefield. It also explains why the Egyptian leader, immediately the cease-fire was declared, began to exploit the positive results of the October War in order to exercise maximum pressure on Israel to reach a just and comprehensive settlement that would serve the interests of all peoples in the area by regaining the occupied Arab land and obtaining the rights of the Palestinian people in return for giving Israel peace and security.

195. But while Egypt's role in making peace has emerged in a clearer perspective since the October War, the real beginning of this role dates back to the period following the June 1967 War.

As the issue of settling the Arab-Israeli conflict is admittedly a historic process, it is important to stress that that major Egyptian efforts to establish peace following the October 1973 War were not dissociated from the successive Egyptian attempts to bring about peace during the period between 1967 and 1973. Though it would appear at first sight that the October War divides the post-1967 from the post-1973 periods, it does, in point of fact, serve to link or relate the two stages.

196. The June 1967 War was one of the landmarks in the history of the Arab-Israeli confrontation. One of the most significant results of this war was the tremendous shock it caused in the minds of Arabs towards the conflict with Israel. This shock raised grave doubts in the slogans trumpeted in the Arab world before the 1967 war, and increased Arab awareness of the need for a reevaluation of Arab policy and strategy.

In spite of the continuity of an apparently common Arab action expressed in the famous three NO's decided upon at the Khartoum conference, namely: 'No conciliation, no recognition of and no negotiations with Israel' yet clear differences appeared in the Arab situation.

197. The importance of Egypt's role during this period lies in her steering the Arab world towards a better understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict on realistic bases beyond slogans and communiques.

In the face of the intransigent stand adopted by Syria (especially before the coup in November 1970, which brought President al-Asad's group to power) Algeria and Iraq (after the Ba'th's coming into power in July 1968), Egypt adopted a more realistic policy, thereby gaining the sympathy of the majority of Arab countries.

Essence

The essence of this policy is illustrated in the acceptance of the Security Council's Resolution 242 with its intention to solve the conflict peacefully and recognise the State of Israel.

198. Egypt's proclaimed aim during this period, i.e., the elimination of the consequences of the aggression, reflected the essence of this policy stipulating the restoration of territory occupied by Israel in 1967 together with the belief in the possibility of achieving that through a peaceful solution. This was the first and most difficult step towards the peace process, because Egypt adopted this policy at a time when the slogans of the past were still ingrained in Arab minds, particularly the idea of Palestine liberation.

199. Egypt's stand was made clear in her answer to the questions posed by the UN Special Envoy Gunnar Jarring. Thus, Egypt faced the world community with a new drive based on a more realistic policy which offers an opportunity to end the state of war and establish peace in the area for the first time ever since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli confrontation.

200. At the same time, Egypt did not completely discard the choice of war. She went ahead with rebuilding her military force and preparing for a new battle to push Israel from her obstinate stance.

201. Within this framework, the war of attrition was putting pressure on the international community, particularly the United States, to push Israel to give concessions to help reach a solution of the problem.

202. Thus, the Egyptian policy during the Israeli-Arab conflict in this period was based on two things, namely: Exerting diplomatic efforts in the international sphere and preparing for war. The objective was to settle the conflict and achieve a peace based on justice in the area.

203. It is within this context that we shall be able to understand President 'Abd an-Nasir's acceptance--in the name of Egypt--of the American initiative known as Rogers' peace in July, 1970, as well as Egypt's acceptance of the cessation of the war of attrition.

Egypt wanted to give the United States an opportunity to play a part in the peace process despite her obvious partiality for Israel at the time. She also wanted to confirm the Egyptian stand aimed at achieving peace and at the same time set up a missile barrier able to protect Egyptian territory.

204. Egypt was not satisfied at this stage with responding only to international initiatives but started the peace initiative which put Israel in an embarrassing situation before the international community.

205. It is noteworthy to refer to President as-Sadat's initiative on February 4, 1971, when he announced Egypt would accept to extend the cease-fire deadline--decided upon twice within the framework of the Rogers plan--for another 30 days to expire on March 7, 1971, with a view to present the international community, the United Nations and the four superpowers with a chance to exert their efforts to achieve peace.

Initiative

The president added to that an Egyptian initiative providing for a partial withdrawal from the Sinai, in return for which Egypt would reopen the Suez Canal for international navigation as a first step towards the implementation of Resolution 242 according to a schedule drawn up by UN Special Envoy Gunnar Jarring.

206. But this initiative fell on deaf ears as President as-Sadat announced at the expiry of the deadline. Therefore, it was logical that Egypt declare that her commitment to abide by the cease-fire had come to an end, referring at the very same time to the fact that this does not mean suspending peace initiatives but that she would decide for herself what she believes to be her duty.

207. It is here that we should point out that the Egyptian policy during the Israeli-Arab conflict was clear and straight forward, contrary to the policy of some Arab countries which rejected Resolution 242 and any non-military solution to the problem. They were determined to launch a Vietnam-type war on Israel.

The policy of these states--mainly Syria and Iraq, Algeria and Libya (after the September Revolution)--has been unrealistic.

208. We may refer here, as an example, to the fact that, at the time, Syria imposed gradually increasing restrictions on guerilla operations across the Golan.

It is known that the cease-fire lines along the Syrian front had on the whole remained quiet during this stage although the new Israeli-Syrian borders after the 1967 war had become longer and easier to penetrate.

209. We can also refer to the violation of the Iraqi Government's promise made to the Palestinian resistence movement providing for support of Palestinian defence in case of attack by Jordan.

Civil war erupted in Jordan and lasted for over a whole year known later as the Black Ayloul (September 1970-July 1971), but the Iraqi Government did not budge. Moreover, Jordan weakened Palestinian action completely in Jarash and Agloun through an agreement with Iraqi troops stationed between the Jordanian and Palestinian forces.

Hostility

210. This happened while Egypt moved to protect the Palestinian resistance movement and prevent its liquidation despite the Palestinians' hostile attitude towards Egypt for accepting the Rogers plan. The Palestinians continued to reject Egyptian plans to achieve peace and lashed at Egypt, but soon realised that its last refuge was in Egypt.

211. President as-Sadat said in early 1971, "I would like you to know that fulfilling our duty is neither a luxury nor mere words,

"The others prefer bombast to action. They are satisfied with using slogans as a substitute for shooting. We do not belong to them because we know the meaning of our decision to stand to fulfill our duty. We know the cost of this decision as well.

"These are estimated by sweat and blood and there is no other way to estimate them."

212. Events have proved the Egyptian situation correct and Syria gradually began to acknowledge it in spite of her constant denunciation of Security Council Resolution 242. The approach was particularly stressed under a common attempt to establish the confederation of Arab republics in the spring of 1971.

213. At the same time, Egypt deemed it necessary to launch an attack against Israel to make her abandon her obstinate stance against any peaceful solution. So the October War was launched in 1973.

214. As an extension of the principles of the Egyptian policy, Egypt's leadership started investing in the consequences of the October War by initiating the peace process.

At the peak of our military victory, President as-Sadat announced his second peace initiative on October 16th, 1973, saying we had fought for the sake of peace, adding that by peace he meant one based on justice.

The president submitted a peace plan based on the following:

FIRST: We have fought and we will fight to liberate our land under Israeli occupation since 1967 and to find a way to regain legitimate Palestinian rights. We are ready to accept a cease-fire on condition of immediate Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territory to the pre-June 5, 1967 borders under international supervision.

SECOND: We are ready, immediately after the completion of withdrawal, to attend a peace conference at the United Nations.

THIRD: We are ready to start clearing the Suez Canal and reopen it for international navigation so that it may play its role again in serving the world.

FOURTH: We are not ready in any way to accept vague promises susceptible to any interpretation. What we want are ends and means.

215. In conformity with this initiative, the Security Council Resolution 338 was issued calling upon the conflicting parties in the area to refrain from war and inviting these parties to meet, under the supervision of the United Nations and the joint chairmanship of the two superpowers, at a peace conference to be convened in Geneva.

The Egyptian side said it would be better to implement a truce between the belligerent forces to create a favourable atmosphere during the comprehensive peace conference in Geneva.

216. Hence, the first meeting between Egypt and Israel was held at Kilometre 101 on October 27, 1973, under the supervision of the United Nations. They discussed the measures which should be taken concerning the wounded, the provision of supplies and solving the field problems.

As usual, the Syrians urged the Palestinians to lash bitterly at Egypt.

217. This coincided with the beginning of the American step-by-step policy. Egypt and Israel signed the Kissinger six-point plan on November 11, 1973 for a cease-fire on Kilometre 101 on the Cairo-Suez road following the Israeli violation of the first cease-fire. The first disengagement agreement was only concluded however on January 18th, 1974, i.e. after the Geneva conference of December 21-22, 1973 which brought about no constructive results.

218. After signing the first agreement between Egypt and Israel, the United Nations Emergency Force was stationed in the buffer zone on March 4, 1974. Egypt endeavoured to implement a similar movement on the Syrian front. This was approved by Egypt and the United States. The Syrian president was briefed on this during the convening of the Arab summit conference in Algeria in November 1973.

219. A truce between Syria and Israel in the Golan was concluded on May 31, 1974 after Syria had delegated Egypt to negotiate a cease-fire similar to the one Egypt had signed. This was carried out in Geneva between the delegates of Syria and Israel, during the Egyptian-Israeli meeting.

Two Courses

220. With the achievement of this, the Egyptian peace efforts proceeded on two courses: Continuity in the step-by-step policy on one hand the invitation to hold the Geneva conference to decide upon the bases of a comprehensive peace on the other. Egypt furthered the peace process by reopening the Suez Canal for international navigation on June 5, 1973 and permitting the transition of Israeli goods on board other countries' ships.

221. After concluding the second troop disengagement between Egypt and Israel by signing the Sinai agreement on September 1st, 1975, it became necessary to head for the Geneva conference to achieve a comprehensive and permanent peace. The second disengagement agreement stipulated that the two parties pursue efforts to reach a final peace agreement within the framework of the Geneva peace conference in accordance with Resolution 242.

222. Thus Egypt shouldered the responsibility of convening the Geneva conference with the object of signing the second disengagement agreement, despite United States' pre-occupation with the elections of 1976, the escalation of the civil war in Lebanon, the consequent pre-occupation of the [illegible] Arab parties (Syria and the Palestine) of this crisis in order to procrastinate over convening the Geneva conference.

223. In spite of the insolent attacks by the rejectionist front--including the Palestinians--against Egypt, Egypt intensified her positive efforts to convene the Geneva conference. Indeed, political observers described 1977 as "The year of peace."

That year President Carter assumed office. Prior to this, a settlement of the Lebanese crisis was reached at the sixth summit held in Riyadh in September 1977 and the 8th Arab summit in Cairo, October 1976.

Majority

224. The majority expected outstanding progress in the peace process during that year especially after the success of Egyptian efforts in pushing the American administration to issue a communique on June 27, 1977, two weeks before Mr Begin's visit to Washington. This communique established a link between the necessity of stabilising the situation in the Middle East and the future of American interests. It stressed that delaying a settlement in the past had led to the 1973 war.

The European Community communique was issued two days later on June 29, 1977, stressing the necessity of Israeli withdrawal and calling upon Israel to acknowledge the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

225. Yet attempts to convene the Geneva conference did not meet with success. They seemed to have reached a deadlock. It was made clear that peace efforts had entered a vicious circle.

The difficulties impeding the convening of the Geneva conference are illustrated in the following:

FIRST: Obstacles related to working out the agenda of the conference on the part of the Syrians and the Israelis. The basic points were the question of an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory, the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the nature of peace.

SECOND: Difficulties concerning the representation of the parties of the conflict at the conference and particularly the Palestinian representation. There was also the problem of whether one or several delegations would represent the Arabs.

THIRD: Difficulties related to the running of the conference, whether committees should be formed on a geographical basis or if there should be specialised committees.

226. The contacts made during holding the 32nd session of the UN General Assembly had proved that the viewpoints of the parties were still widely divergent. Hence, it became difficult to regard the possibility of convening the Geneva conference, and doubts were increased as to the advantage of holding it under such circumstances.

227. President as-Sadat said that convening the Geneva conference was not an end in itself and that this proposed conference would not go the road of the international disarmament conferences whose sessions lasted for over 25 years without achieving definite results. President as-Sadat affirmed that Egypt is ready to go to Geneva with the object of making Israel shoulder the responsibility for peace as well as the discussion of these three basic points:

--Israeli withdrawal from Arab territory occupied in 1967.

--The legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

--The nature of peace.

The president also said that Egypt rejects any partial agreement, any separate conciliation, or a third truce. Egypt would go to Geneva for the sake of a permanent and comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East.

228. Since President as-Sadat has shouldered his historic responsibilities on October 16, 1970, he started working for peace despite difficulties and complications surrounding the issue resulting from decades of bloody conflict among the parties.

229. President as-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in November 1977, and his clear historic statement defining the Arab stand before the members of the Knesset did not represent his first initiative towards a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, yet the visit changed world public opinion in his favour.

230. The initiative represented a radical change in the peace-making process due to those meetings and negotiations that followed, bringing about the following:

The signing of the framework for Middle East peace, the framework of the Camp David agreement between Egypt and Israel, and the complementary agreement on the establishment of full Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip.

It is a tripartite group of agreements providing for the comprehensive settlement formula towards the establishment of peace in the area after a dispute lasting for over 30 years, without ignoring the two basic requirements which are: Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory occupied in the 1967 war and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Autumn 1977

231. In the face of the events of the autumn of 1977, the difficulties impeding the convening of the Geneva conference, and the recklessnes of Arab parties as well as Israel, the Egyptian leadership found that it must discard obsolete ideas in order to carry out its responsibility of pushing on with the peace process. This required the wisdom of a statesman plus a leader's estimation of the future and the historical role Egypt was destined to shoulder, Egypt the shield of the Arab nation and its thinking mind.

232. Hence the decision was made to go to Jerusalem and to address the people and leaders of Israel directly for the first time in history. That decision was a turning point. It was a new method in international diplomacy, designed to achieve in peace what is usually attained through resolutions.

233. At the opening meeting of the second session of the People's Assembly President as-Sadat declared that he was ready to go to the farthest end of the world, even to the Israeli Knesset, to achieve peace.

234. Events soon followed one after the other, until the American ambassador in Cairo brought the invitation to President as-Sadat to visit Jerusalem on November 17, 1977. President as-Sadat went to Jerusalem on the November 19, 1977 and he made his historical address to the Knesset on November 20, 1977.

235. In his address to the Knesset, President as-Sadat explicitly said that he had not gone to Jerusalem to conclude a separate agreement between Egypt and Israel, for this was not in line with Egypt's policy; since the problem was not one between Egypt and Israel alone. Moreover, any separate peace between Egypt and Israel would not establish a lasting and just peace for the entire region. He also declared that even if peace was achieved between all the Arabs and Israel without a solution to the Palestine problems, it would not lead to permanent peace.

Full Peace

236. President as-Sadat also stated that he was not aiming at a partial peace in the sense of terminating the state of war at that juncture while postponing the entire problem to another stage because that was not the radical solution which would lead to a lasting peace.

237. Thus, the rejection of the separate peace formula meant that the visit to Jerusalem did not aim at concluding a third disengagement agreement in Sinai or even Sinai, the Golan the West Bank and Gaza together. Such an agreement would only mean an indefinite postponement of the real problem.

238. President as-Sadat stressed that the proper alternative for all this was the establishment of a just and lasting peace which should be based on:

FIRST: The termination of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories occupied in 1967. There is no sense in discussing peace while Arab territory was still occupied.

SECOND: The realisation of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and autonomy.

The Palestinian issue is the essence of the entire problem and there could be no lasting peace if it remained without a solution. The Palestinian people's rights could no longer be denied. They have become a reality recognised by the international community. It is better for the Israelis to realise this.

THIRD: The right of all countries of the region to live in peace within secure borders guaranteed through measures to be agreed upon, in addition to the appropriate international guarantees.

FOURTH: All countries of the region should undertake to administer their relations with each other in accordance with the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter. They should not resort, in particular, to the use of force and should solve their disputes through peaceful means.

FIFTH: Ending the state of war in the region.

239. In that manner Egypt undertook the task of defending Arab rights in the heart of the Israeli Parliament. Egypt did not agree to let her efforts for the establishment of peace contravene with her historic obligation to defend the Arab right. In this formula lies the logic of the Egyptian peace. It was this view that governed the Egyptian stand in all the moves and contacts which followed the peace initiative and which depended for the first time on direct negotiations and open dialogue.

240. Egypt proceeded to establish peace. In another initiative on the November 26, 1977, she launched an invitation for the holding of "the Cairo preparatory meeting for the Geneva peace conferences, which would embody all the parties of the Middle East dispute, the co-chairmen of the Geneva peace conference and the United Nations secretary general. The object of the meeting was to prepare for the Geneva conference and to secure its success in reaching a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

241. Egypt extended the invitation to attend this preparatory meeting to Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and Israel, as well as the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Nations.

Flags

Flags of all these countries, including the Palestinian flag, were hoisted in Cairo in preparation for the meeting. The meeting was held in Cairo on December 14, 1977, comprising delegations from Egypt, Israel, the United States and the United Nations. But Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Soviet Union refused to attend. The meeting revealed a large gap between the Egyptian and the Israeli positions.

242. On December 25, 1977, a meeting was held in Ismailia between President as-Sadat and the prime minister of Israel. In that meeting, the actual points of differences between the two sides became evident when Begin presented his plan which was rejected by Egypt because it embodied provisions for the maintenance of Israeli settlements and military airfields in Sinai, the denial of the national rights of the Palestinian people and the continuation of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

However, an agreement was reached at the meeting on the formation of two committees--one political and the other military--to be presided over by the foreign and defence ministers.

243. The Military Committee begin its meetings in Cairo on January 11, 1978. Its function was to discuss matters related to the stages of the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, the lines to which the withdrawal would be effected in each stage and the disposition of the troops of the two sides and those of the United Nations.

January 14, 1978

244. The Political Committee also began its meetings on January 14, 1978 in Jerusalem in an atmosphere fraught with tension and serious differences. This made it difficult for the committee to continue its work. Then came President as-Sadat's decision to call back the Egyptian delegation from Jerusalem upon Israel's rejection of the draft declaration of principles which embodied the following points derived from the Security Council Resolutions No 242 and 338.

FIRST: Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, the Golan, the West Bank and Gaza.

SECOND: Securing the territorial integrity and political independence of each state in the region through special arrangements to be agreed upon.

THIRD: Respecting the right of all states in the region to sovereignty and territorial integrity.

FOURTH: Achieving a just settlement of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects on the basis of the right to self-determination.

FIFTH: Terminating all claims of war and establishing peaceful relations.

245. Following the breakdown of the negotiations held by the Political Committee, President as-Sadat visited the United States and a number of European countries to explain to them the real dimensions of the situation after the suspension of the talks of the Political Committee and to ask Washington to take a clearer and more serious stand which would stop Israel from hindering the peace efforts.

246. A meeting was held in Vienna between President as-Sadat, Austrian Chancellor Kreisky and the leaders of the Socialist International during the second week of July 1978. It led to the issuing of a document which represented [line drop as published] between the European parties who are members of the Socialist International, on the basis of [words indistinct].

247. A [words indistinct] held in Leeds and it began its work on July 18, 1978. It ended in complete failure because of Israel's intransigent stands which contravened the sound formula for peace.

248. In view of this situation, the U.S. administration intervened to prevent the collapse of the peace process. It announced a visit to the region by the secretary of state, Mr Vance early in August 1978. The U.S. Ambassador Alfred Atherton also made a tour of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Summit

249. As these two envoys failed to make progress, United States President Carter invited both Egypt and Israel to a tripartite summit conference at Camp David on September 5, 1978, as a last attempt to find a solution to the crisis. This reflected the United States' willingness to change its role from a mediator to that of a full partner. This meant that the United States was to bring all possible pressure to bear on Israel to reach an agreement through that conference. This objective was actually attained as the conference issued the following two documents:

--A framework for peace in the Middle East.

--A framework for the agreement on a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

250. Thus, the Egyptian stand, which strongly upholds the principle of a just and comprehensive peace, managed to motivate Israel to accept the formula of comprehensive peace. An agreement was reached, not only on negotiations between Egypt and Israel for a peace treaty to be concluded within three months, but above all on a framework for peace in the Middle East to which other parties of the dispute would be invited. It was stipulated in that framework that the Security Council resolutions Nos 242 and 338 with all their provisions would be taken as a basis for the settlement and that the parties of the dispute would work for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement to the Middle East conflict through the conclusion of peace treaties based on the Security Council resolutions.

Framework

The framework included a provision stating that it represented a basis for peace not only between Egypt and Israel but also between Israel and all its other neighbours.

251. The framework also provided a basis for the solution to the Palestinian problem through negotiations in three stages in which Egypt, Israel, Jordan and representatives of the Palestinian people would participate.

FIRST STAGE: An accord between Egypt and Israel that there would be transitional arrangements on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for a period not exceeding five years. During that period full autonomy will be granted to the Palestinian people.

SECOND STAGE: Egypt, Israel and Jordan will negotiate on the means of establishing the elected self-governing authority in the West Bank and Gaza as well as on the agreement which will define the powers of the self-governing authority, and the arrangements of security within and without, and the maintenance of public order.

THIRD STAGE: Negotiations will be conducted to define the final position of the West Bank and Gaza and their relations with their neighbours and to conclude a peace treaty between Israel and Jordan by the end of the transitional period.

Two Years

These negotiations would be conducted between Egypt, Israel, Jordan and representatives of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, two years before the end of the five-year transitional period.

The framework stipulated that the solution to result from these negotiations must recognise the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their demands. It must also receive the approval of the Palestinian people who are entitled under this agreement to refuse any arrangements unacceptable to them.

This means that under this accord the Palestinians were given the right to veto or the right not to agree to any decision on their self-determination which they would not accept.

252. Egypt took another step to establish peace by signing a peace treaty with Israel on March 21, 1979. Although it is known that the signing of this treaty came in application of the agreement reached at Camp David within the framework of the comprehensive settlement, Egypt emphasized the fact that the treaty was but the first step towards a comprehensive peace.

The preamble of the treaty carried a stipulation that Egypt and Israel, in accordance with the Security Council's resolutions Nos 242 and 338, would abide by the Middle East peace framework agreed upon at Camp David, which was meant to be a basis for peace not only between Egypt and Israel but also between Israel and those of its Arab neighbours who were prepared to negotiate for peace on that basis.

253. The preamble further stipulated that the conclusion of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel was considered an important step towards comprehensive peace in the region and the settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute in all its aspects, and that both Egypt and Israel would invite the other Arab parties in the dispute to participate in the peace process on the basis of the principles prescribed in the peace framework and to be guided by those principles.

254. A second accord between Egypt and Israel on the measures for autonomy was annexed to the treaty. They agreed to start negotiations for the implementation of the provisions related to the West Bank and Gaza embodied in the Middle East peace framework within one month from the exchange of the ratification instruments relative to the peace treaty and to invite Jordan to participate in those negotiations in which the Egyptian and Jordanian delegations may include Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza or any other Palestinians likely to be agreed upon by the two parties. The aim of the negotiations was to agree on the arrangements for establishing the elected autonomy authority and for defining its terms of reference. Should Jordan decide not to participate, the negotiations would be conducted between Egypt and Israel, to be completed within one year, so as to make it possible for negotiations to be held as early as possible and to establish the autonomy authority.

255. The negotiations for autonomy have already started between Egypt and Israel with the full participation of the United States.

They are facing difficulties because of the differences in views between Egypt and Israel as regards full autonomy. But Egypt is determined that full autonomy will be for a transitional period which will lead to self-determination for the Palestinian people. Consequently the autonomy authority must enjoy all the executive, legislative and juridical powers except those which all the parties agree to postpone temporarily until the time of self-determination within a period not exceeding five years.

Pressure

256. Egypt was of the opinion that the continuation of negotiations while trying to bring as much pressure as possible to bear on Israel to make her change her stands was bound to reach positive results. In this context we must not forget the fact that the gap separating the Egyptian and the Israeli stands regarding the Palestinian issue resembles the gap which used to separate their stands with regard to the liberation of Sinai and which has been surmounted in accordance with the principles of peace based on justice.

257. Through negotiations, which are still going on, it has been possible to make some progress with regards to the holding of elections in the West Bank and Gaza and to choose the representatives of the Palestinian people who will administer the two regions, as a prelude to the negotiations on the determination of the future of the West Bank and Gaza. This progress came in the form of an agreement on the international supervision over the election, guaranteeing freedom of election by removing the Israeli military government and administration from all matters related to the elections and guaranteeing the freedom of implementation.

258. Concerning the powers of the Palestinian full autonomy, work is going on to define the powers already exercised by the military government in the West Bank and Gaza as a prelude to transferring these powers to the Palestinian authority.

Difficulties

259. In spite of our realisation of the difficulties which still hinder us from reaching complete agreement on all the points embodied in the Camp David accord, Egypt will continue to bring negotiations to the point where the Palestinian people will be able to run their own affairs by themselves in implementation of their right to self-determination. Should this target not be attained by May 1980 according to the accord, the Egyptian diplomacy will then resort to other alternatives that will secure the objective for which the Egyptian people have fought for thirty years. These alternatives may be the United Nations or any other international conference. It is this genuine aim, from which we shall never deviate, particularly after the progress we have made on the way to peace, that prompts us to exert all possible efforts and to try all possible means.

260. Acting from the principle of the sacred commitment to accords based on principles, the Egyptian diplomacy will go ahead in the normalisation process of the Egyptian and Israeli relations, sparing no effort to make the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries a channel of communications which will be used to bring the negotiations to an end and help the Palestinian people achieve autonomy.

261. Our review of Egypt's role in the liberation of the Arab nation, the activation of joint Arab action, the liberation of the Arab economy, the assertion of the Arab identity on both the national and international levels, the Arab-Israeli confrontation, the establishment of peace and as-Sadat's historical initiative, puts us in a position where we can have a sound insight of our achievements and aspirations within a framework of historical facts and a realistic perspective of international politics.

The Future

262. If we are to plan for the future, we should first of all assimilate the facts of the situation:

The first of these is that the role always undertaken by Egypt--whether in war or in peace --has always been the role of leadership and pioneering. This is not the result of Egypt's desire to impose her leadership, but stems from Egypt's geopolitical, cultural, historical and ethnic position and also from the acceptance of Egypt's leading role by the Arab masses with satisfaction and confidence.

263. The second fact is that with the support of Egypt and under her leadership, the Arab countries managed to liberate themselves from the colonisation and exploitation.

They were also able to resist military, cultural and intellectual invasion from the East or from the West. This could not be attained were it not for the Egyptian struggle.

264. The third fact of the situation proves that the differences which occurred at times between Egypt and certain Arab regimes did not influence Egypt's role or her national obligations. Such differences were even transitional and they were settled in a peaceful way and within an Arab context.

265. However, the following new phenomena, which are emerging now on the surface of the Arab differences are worthy of being recorded:

Islamic Context

FIRST: The rejectionist rulers in the Arab countries have tried to express the differences in an Islamic context, to the African, nonaligned countries.

SECOND: The attempts of such rulers have led them to fall in the grip of certain non-Arab powers, which aim at weakening the Arab world to pave the way for an invasion of these countries to use them for purposes detrimental to their real interests.

THIRD: The Arab stand towards the peace initiative has enlarged the gap between the Arab peoples and the rejectionist rulers in the Arab world. The Arab peoples believe in peace and they welcome the Egyptian initiative.

FOURTH: The attempt to isolate Egypt from the Arab world or rather to isolate the Arab world from Egypt, has created a situation in which the Arab nation, having been removed from the natural centre of its leadership, finds itself in situations where the differences and disputes between its countries are intensifying, while domestic dissension and instability are growing. These differences and disputes are even expanding to cover the entire region.

If we look at what is going on around us in a number of Arab and Islamic countries and between many of them, we shall see some Arab brothers rising against each other. Some Arab rulers have gone to the extent of making alliances with certain alien powers against the independence of the countries of the region, at a time when the international situation is in a state of cold war.

We also see in Iran people who use Islam to serve purposes other than those for which it had been revealed.

The Arab rulers feel only rancour, resentment and hatred against Egypt. They do not come up with any workable alternatives or practical suggestions for the present situation. Indeed, they appear to be unaware of what is going on in their own countries.

267. As we shuttle between war and peace, the new Arab reality poses certain queries for us related to the security of our nation and the future of our peoples.

This reality deals with the conduct of those Arab rulers and the destiny of the Arab peoples, who have clear insight but are saddled with a handful of rulers that could not reach power were it not for the conspiracy of exploitation with wealth against the interests of the Arab peoples.

If we sum up these queries in a fundamental question that needs to be answered, that question will be:

What stand should Egypt take in face of those rejectionist rulers of the Arab states?

268. In answering this question we find ourselves before four possible courses.

FIRST: Wait and See.

SECOND: Pursue the course of slogans.

THIRD: Break away (from the Arabs) and isolate ourselves.

FOURTH: Continue the initiative and address ourselves to the peoples.

269. Should Egypt opt for a diplomatic rest period to ride out the emotional storm in the Arab world, that is until the rulers of the Arab rejectionist states (or at least some of them) recover their composure, understand the truth of the Egyptian initiative and its cultural dimensions and recognise Egypt's historic mission as guardian of the interests of the region's peoples; should Egypt choose this course of action, she would be required to define her policy during the waiting period. In the event, a number of questions would have to be looked into:

a. Is there a possibility that the time delay could lead to a freezing of hostile attitude and the continuation of libellous campaigns and thus encourage dissent in Egypt...?

b. Could this wait-and-see be interpreted as a sign of passiveness and weakness?

c. How long can Egypt wait? To what extent can Egypt's patience be stretched while rejectionist Arab rulers continue to defame her at international Islamic, African and non-aligned forums?

d. What would the reaction of the Arab peoples be to the wait-and-see policy? That is, those people who know where real Arab interests lie and who have full faith in the unity of the Arab nation?

e. What would the impact of this strategy be on the autonomy negotiations?

270. The second option is a propaganda campaign; this is the course that has already been chosen by rulers who abuse their peoples' confidence and give priority to their own personal interests over those of the Arab nation.

This option would raise several questions too:

--Can propaganda be seen as an alternative to serious action, even theoretically?

--Could Egypt be content with this type of action after its intensive struggle to liberate the Arab nation through sincere and concrete action?

--Would slogans be of any use to the Palestinian people? Would they help reduce their sufferings?

--Are slogans capable of liberating the occupied Arab territories?

--Can slogans achieve autonomy for the Palestinians as a step to self-determination and independence?

--Isn't it likely that indulgence in propaganda could cause us to lose everything?

--Can Arabs, in view of the lessons history has taught them and the disasters they have been through over the years, accept more of the propaganda they have been listening to in utter boredom for so long?

Slogans

--Are slogans capable of meeting the challenge of international realities while we are in the midst of international conflicts based on power policies?

--Can slogans achieve anything like what was achieved through the glorious war of October 1973?

--Could the Arab peoples, having seen the positive outcome of the historic peace initiative, particularly the liberation of Sinai, accept now a deviation by Egypt from that civilised course of behaviour, a return to those uncivilised methods which restored neither right nor land over the past 30 years?

THIRD OPTION: BREAK AND ISOLATION

271. This course of action presumes that Egypt would consider the hostile policies of Arab rejectionists sufficient cause to break fully with the Arab world and pursue a policy of self-reliance. The break would mean a freeze of Egypt's efforts in support of the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination. The problem of achieving statehood for the Palestinians would be left to the rejectionists who could handle it with propaganda or any other means of their choice.

This eventuality would also require liquidation of the Arab League, and the disbandment of all Arab organisations which, through being abused by certain Arab rulers, are no longer forums for joint Arab action.

272. The third option is neither unrealistic nor devoid of material advantages. Even without the Arab world Egypt can grow, prosper and progress. The Arab world, however, would continue to need Egypt's assistance in its continuing struggle for independence and to exploit its resources, it would continue to need Egyptian scientists and experts. It might be asked whether the choice of isolation on Egypt's part might not in the long-run lead to the return of the Arab peoples to Egypt's embrace?

--Can Egypt live in isolation from the adjacent region in an age of power bloc?

--If Egypt has to belong to a certain bloc or grouping and if it decided to opt out of the Arab bloc, is there a possibility that Egypt [would] come to lead a new bloc or group?

--If so, would the new group incorporate a number of African or of Mediterranean states?

273. The fourth option is to pursue the initiative while maintaining a dialogue with the peoples of the area. This course follows the conviction, supported by history, that dialogue is an effective means to reconciliation. It is the course Egypt has always followed since the 1952 revolution. Egypt's initiatives in the past have been largely responsible for the liberation of the Arab world and the institution of joint Arab action; these initiatives have been an important factor in freeing the Arab economy, promoting an Arab identity and in confronting Israel militarily and later in the drive for peace.

Dialogue

274. The principle of the initiative requires Egypt to seek a dialogue with the Arab peoples and not their rulers; Egypt must offer the Arab peoples an alternative plan of action to help them overcome their fears and confront the campaign of malice and hatred that has almost become a mark of many Arab governments and Arab rulers. These rulers are only interested in defaming Egypt and the peace initiative so as to hide the truth about the nature of the Egyptian diplomatic drive for a just and comprehensive peace. Egypt must offer a strategy that would help the Arab peoples break the fetters of injustice and tyranny binding them so that they can join in the peace process.

275. As a demonstration of the consistency of Egypt's words and deeds, it would support the transformation of the Arab League from an organisation of governments (which never functioned as it should have because of Arab intrigues) into a league of peoples, this being in line with the changes which have occurred within and around the area. Within such a league, member peoples could exercise what they were deprived of by their rulers, proclaim their freedom of expression and set up a living model for peoples of the Arab and Islamic worlds, an example by which man would enjoy his right to live in peace and safety and share in his country's wealth.

Our ultimate objective is to find an organisational ideal that would make possible the expression of free will within a framework of sound democracy; an organisation that would reflect the hopes and ideals of all Arab and Islamic peoples.

276. Here several questions present themselves; they all relate to such guarantees as are necessary to ensure the success of the new popular organisation:

--How would we begin arrangements for the formation of the new league?

--What should be the principles and objectives of the new league?

--What would be the jurisdiction of the new league and should it take the form of a public organisation or of one combining political, economic, social and cultural functions etc...?

--What would be the conditions of league membership?

--What type of agencies would serve the purposes of the league?

--Would it incorporate a general assembly, an executive council, a parliament and a permanent secretariat or would the league be confined to periodic meetings?

--How would decisions be made and what would be the form and number of the agencies? Would the voting formula or the concensus formula be adopted in decision-making; in other words, would concensus be measured according to the highest or the lowest common factor?

Formula?

--What would the representation formula be? Should there be relative or unified representation? It should be taken into consideration that a league with such a broad membership would be representing a variety of political systems. Would it be proper to make political parties the basis of such a league? Should it embrace majority or minority parties or both? And what about those nations with a one-party system and those which have no parties at all?

--Should we seek instead a representation system based on categories recognising the presence of different economic and social systems? Or could we adopt a representation system based on professional associations and trade unions?

277. Having analysed the four alternative options open to us, it remains to confirm that the ultimate objective is to help clarify matters for the people and their constitutional institutions, encourage grass roots participation, help political leaders express their views freely and adopt decisions with clarity of vision and full understanding of the positive as well as the negative aspects involved in each of the four options.

These options, however, are not rigid, and debate, which is the main instrument of true democracy, might lead to the emergence of other options. Dialogue is a dynamic process which opens up a series of situations and positions which could help us reach resolution in the interests of the Arab homeland.

278. Whatever the form or style of this drive of ours, it is necessary for us to cement the gains brought about by Camp David accords and the peace treaty and to achieve of mutual recognition by the Israeli and Palestinian peoples.

279. The people of Egypt will have to make the decision; they are capable of formulating new stands that could be used by the political command as the basis for a strategy suited to present Arab realities. Whatever the form or content, Egypt will continue to build on the initiative and push it to its conclusion by fostering the factors needed to uphold its momentum. In this context it will be necessary to pursue direct contact with the people and to ignore the claims of the rejectionist rulers. The logic of right must be set above the domination of might. Our deep faith in the public awareness of Egypt's role makes it inevitable for the Egyptian people to address their brothers from a plane above that of their rulers so that a comprehensive and just peace may prevail in our region.

280. The resolution to be taken would determine the future of relations between Egypt and the Arab world alone in the final 20 years of the 20th century; it would determine their form and content. The resolution would also rally public opinion behind the political command in its quest for a better future for our people, a future in which they can enjoy peace and prosperity. Hence, the adoption of such a resolution should be the climax of a public debate on the widest possible scale, conducted in the context of our genuine commitment to Egypt's interests and her Arabism.

PRESIDENT INSPECTS IRAQI-IRANIAN BORDER REGION

JN241739 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May--President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that the time when this or that state used to provoke Iraq has passed forever. He said that because of the spirit of sacrifice evident in every Iraqi soldier for the defense of the homeland, revolutionary Iraq is now able to cut off the hand that stretches out to harm it. While inspecting an advance unit on the Iraqi-Iranian border, the president said: We are confident that our border is in sincere hands, hands that are always ready to sacrifice for the sake of principles and dignity.

It should be noted that President Saddam Husayn spent 3 days in the border villages and posts in Diyala governorate, inspecting the sons of his people and his valiant soldiers. Upon visiting Qurahtu border subdistrict, President Saddam Husayn praised the cohesion of the people and the armed forces around the 17-30 July revolution. Addressing the masses of people and soldiers who crowded around to receive him, he said: Our hearts get larger and our determination gets stronger when we see this splendid cohesion between the armed forces personnel and the people's sons. He added: With such a spirit we face the enemies of Arabism. Such is our creed, around which the army, people, workers and peasants rally. He affirmed that these principles are for all the Arabs and added: There you have the Egyptians who come from Egypt. They applaud the July revolution wherever we find them and in every spot of Iraq. This is the meaning of the new principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

President Saddam Husayn went on to say: Iraq has great tasks, and our principles are still waiting to radiate over the Arab homeland and spread to every Arab citizen who believes in the nation and defends its honor. The president stressed that we are ready to embrace any honorable Arab citizen because the territory of Iraq is for all the Arabs and we are ready to place him before our eyes.

The masses of people and soldiers received their leader, President Saddam Husayn, with echoing cheers, stressing our people's determination to continue the struggle and confrontation of all the plots directed against the Arab nation's sovereignty and dignity.

RADIO-TV COOPERATION PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH SOVIET UNION

JN241858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Moscow, 24 May--Iraq and the Soviet Union today signed a radio and television cooperation protocol for the years 1980-1981. The protocol provides for the exchange of programs and films on sports, songs, music, plays, special programs and the training of cadres. The protocol was signed for Iraq by Hamid Sa'id, director of the Radio and Television General Establishment, and for the Soviet side by Lapin, chairman of the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting.

IRAQ TO PARTICIPATE IN MOSCOW OLYMPIC GAMES

JN260940 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 May 80

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 26 May--The Iraqi National Olympic Committee has named the members of the Iraqi Olympic delegation which will participate in the 22d Olympiad in Moscow on 19 July. The delegation is headed by Hashim Qadduri, Youth Ministry under secretary and first deputy chairman of the Iraqi National Olympic Committee.

JORDAN DECIDES TO PARTICIPATE IN MOSCOW OLYMPICS

JN241849 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Jordan declared today that it will participate in the Moscow Olympics. Tahir Hikmat, president of the Jordanian National Olympic Committee, has sent a cable to the Olympic organizing committee which contains Jordan's wish to participate in the Moscow Olympics in July.

AD-DUSTUR COMMENTS ON WEIZMAN RESIGNATION

JN261004 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 May 80

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Weizman's Resignation," AD-DUSTUR says: If Weizman's resignation, after Dayan's, from the government has completely cleared the field of those who were able, to an extent, to curb the reins of extremists like Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon, Interior Minister Yosef Burg and Foreign Affairs Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, it is doubtful now that this resignation will lead to the collapse of Begin's government or to the withdrawal of the Knesset's confidence from it so long as the ruling coalition retains its current formation. Despite the popularity which Weizman and Dayan have gained with the Israeli man in the street, they do not have the political weight that might influence the government due to their resignations. Despite the moral crack which Weizman's resignation might cause to the image of Begin's government outside Israel, Begin will continue to run the government in his traditional way as long as he is capable of maintaining the unity of the coalition he heads. Therefore, the Arabs inside and outside the occupied Arab territories have no reason to regret Weizman's resignation or to be apprehensive about the coming of a more radical person to the Israeli Defense Ministry. The Israeli policy of retaining the occupied Arab territories, denying the Palestinian people's rights and ruling the Arabs there with terror and repression is a policy which was applied by Weizman and Dayan and called for by the Likud coalition and the Labor Party. If there are any discrepancies between them, it is no more than a superficial difference in degree and not in principles and in the application of the policy agreed upon and not in the essence of the policy itself.

MINISTER OF STATE RETURNS FROM ISLAMABAD MEETING

JN241701 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Marwan al-Qasim and the delegation accompanying him returned to Amman this afternoon after attending the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Islamabad.

In a statement to a JNA correspondent, Al-Qasim said that the conference discussed the Palestine question and the Jerusalem issue with a spirit characterized by seriousness and a sense of responsibility. He said that Jordan submitted a number of draft resolutions--adopted unanimously by the conference--concerning the three deportees. The transfer of the WHO center from Alexandria to Amman and the condemnation of the recent Israeli occupation authorities' decision to annex Arab Jerusalem. The Jordanian minister said that Jordan submitted a working paper to the conference on Jerusalem which stressed the Arabism of Jerusalem and its importance both to Muslims and Arabs. He added that the conference's sessions were characterized by the spirit of solidarity and cooperation. Al-Qasim said that in the contacts made by the Jordanian delegation at the conference, the principle of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, especially from Jerusalem, and the importance of granting the Arab Palestinian people the right to self-determination on their national soil were stressed. He added that the conference reiterated the condemnation of the Camp David accords and the autonomy conspiracy.

REPORTS ON SHELLING, CLASHES IN SOUTH, ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS

NC231613 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 23 May 80

[Excerpts] The situation in the South suddenly escalated today with armed clashes and battles taking place. These clashes extended to Sidon when it came under sudden artillery shelling this afternoon, resulting in nine killed, including a girl, and scores of injured. Our radio correspondent in the city reports that one 175-mm shell fell in the center of the city, another fell on the Shahrazao cinema, and a third on the Sidon-Tyre road. Traffic was disrupted as a result of the shelling, shops closed, and the people entered shelters. Meanwhile, an armed clash took place between members of the Amal organization and the Palestinian Fatah organization on the Zifta-al-Marwaniyah road. The area is still under intensive artillery shelling. Initial reports say that one person was killed and 10 others wounded from the Fatah organization. The number of losses in the ranks of the Amal organization were not known.

At noon today, the Ar-Rashidiyah camp came under artillery fire from Israeli gunboats which appeared in Lebanese territorial waters off the coast of Tyre. As a result of this sudden escaltion, the UNIFIL command held an emergency meeting at its headquarters in An-Naqurah to study the aggravating situation in the south, especially in the border area. Israeli warplanes flew at medium altitude over the south at 1345 today.

Correspondents in the South say that the UNIFIL forces were placed on a state of alert because of a fear of clashes with the residents on the occasion of the memorial day for a young man killed in At-Tiri. At that time, eight members of the Irish UN contingent were killed as a result of that incident. Efforts by mediators to reconcile the differences between the Irish contingent and the village people have so far failed.

Heavy Fighting Reported

TA241711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] There has been fighting for 2 days on Mt Armun, in southern Lebanon, between the terrorists and members of the leftist organizations and fighters from the Shi'ite movement 'Amal which was established by the Imam (Musa Sadr), who disappeared, our military correspondent Roni Daniyel reports that 15 were killed and dozens wounded in the exchanges of fire. Travellers who came from the area reported that several vehicles were damaged. The "Amal movement and Haddad's militiamen are demanding that the terrorists and the Syrians be expelled from Lebanon as a condition for achieveing a settlement.

Further Details

TA242113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] About 20 terrorists have been killed and dozens wounded in southern Lebanon in heavy exchanges of fire over the last 2 days between them and Shi'ite villagers belonging to the Al-'Amal organization. Our correspondent Yehezqel Hame'iri says that there were also clashes today between UNIFIL personnel and terrorists and militia fighters. Several terrorists tried to infiltrate into areas held by units of the Fijian army in the Central enclave. Dutch UN troops clashed with militiamen in the area of the village of Yatar after they had prevented a militia patrol from passing through the area. This evening there was a meeting between militia representatives and UNIFIL officers in the village of Bint Jubayl and the dispute was settled.

Two Yugoslavs Reported Killed

NC241250 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Two people, wounded in yesterday's clashes between the Armal movement and the Fatah organization, have died of their wounds. They are Muhammad 'Ali and 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Ali--both hold Yugoslav citizenship. This raises the question as to whether the names given are meant as a coverup.

PRIME MINISTER AL-HUSS COMMENTS ON SHELLING OF SIDON

NC231921 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli shelling of Sidon this afternoon, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss said: This is a kind of savagery in which Israel has exceeded all limits. I do not know how Israel can justify such an abominable crime to the world. I also do not know how the world can forgive Israel for this crime in which innocent and peaceful citizens fell victim.

VOICE OF HOPE BLAMES SYRIANS FOR SHELLING OF SIDON

NC240828 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 May 80

[Excerpt] Our correspondent Edmund Shabib reports that it has been confirmed to him personally beyond any doubt that the shells that fell on Sidon on 23 May were fired from the neighborhood of Jazzin township, where there are Syrian artillery emplacements. Edmund adds that he can confirm that the shells did not come from the direction of Free Lebanon, stating that he has been able, through his own means, to discover the reason for the shelling: The Syrian command, in the wake of an intensification of clashes, a deterioration in the situation in An-Nabatiyah and Dayr az-Zahrani between Amal and Fatah, and fear that Amal might in the end gain control of the situation and Fatah be expelled, saw fit to shell sidon in order to focus everyone's attention on it.

UN FORCES DETAIN CHRISTIAN MILITIA PATROL

NC241100 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] A Free Lebanon patrol was detained by UN soldiers of the Netherlands contingent near the Free Lebanese village of Bayt Lif early this morning. The six Free Lebanese soldiers were on normal patrol duties in a vehicle, when a large Netherlands force came from Yatar and Haris and surrounded them. The Voice of Hope has learned that orders have been given to the patrol not to withdraw and that talks to settle the matter are underway between representatives of the Free Lebanese army and the command of Netherlands contingent. The Lebanese liaison officer to the UN forces in the central sector is attending the talks.

HADDAD WARNS UN FORCES ON MOVEMENTS OF CITIZENS

NC241110 Marj "Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] The UN Norwegian contingent has prevented a number of Free Lebanese from leaving the township of Ibil as-Saqy for Marj "Uyun. Free Lebanon commander Maj Sa'd Haddad has warned that this action might exacerbate the situation with the UN forces. He pointed out that the dispute between the Irish and Free Lebanon has not yet been settled.

PDRY LEADER ARRIVES FOR TALKS 25 MAY; MEETS AL-ASAD

JN251648 Damascus Domestic Arabic 1615 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] At 1700 today 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee secretary general, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and prime minister in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, arrived on an official visit to Syria at the invitation of President Hafiz al-Asad. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was received by President Hafiz al-Asad; Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party; Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf a-Kasm, Syrian prime minister; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi, minister of state for presidential affairs and head of the escort mission; 'Ali 'Id Rus Yahya, PDRY charge d'affaires in Damascus and the members of the escort mission.

Bilateral Relations

JN252017 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 25 May 80

[Excerpts] At 1930 this evening a meeting was held between President Hafiz al-Asad and PDRY leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. They spoke about the fraternal relations between Syria and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

In a statement to a Syrian news agency correspondent at the airport, 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his happiness at visiting Syria. He said: It pleases me on this occasion to convey to the struggling Syrian people, the government and party leaders, particularly President Hafiz al-Asad, greetings of fraternity and joint struggle from our Yemeni people and our social party. He added: This visit is a continuation of the meetings between us and the Syrian brothers, who are linked to us by brotherly ties and the unity of struggle, goal and destiny. These links are of special importance at the present stage of our nation's struggle against the increased aggression of imperialism and Zionism and their agents, the Camp David partners. They also reaffirm the PDRY's firm stand on our just Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue and the struggle of the brotherly Syrian people, who are the symbol of steadfastness and struggle against all internal and external conspiracies. The PDRY leader stressed that the visit will provide an important chance to exchange views with the Syrian brothers and President Hafiz al-Asad on the various issues that concern our Arab nation at the present time. He said: The various aspects of the Arab situation, the enhancement of the effectiveness of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front and the implementation of its resolutions will be the focus of our attention during this visit. We will also discuss the current international situation.

In conclusion the PDRY leader expressed his confidence that his visit will yield positive results and serve the interests of our nation and its struggle against the joint enemy. It will also serve the victory of our just issues. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is accompanied by an official delegation comprising members of the Political Bureau and secretaries of the Central Committee Muhammad Salih Muti', 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali and 'Ali 'Abd ar-Razzaq Badib; Salim Salih Muhammad, Political Bureau candidate member and foreign minister; Dr 'Abdallah al-Khamiri, Central Committee member and minister of state for cabinet affairs; Muhammad Ahmad Salman, PDRY ambassador in Lebanon; and Lt Col 'Abdallah 'Ulayway, air force and air defense commander. An information and press delegation also accompanies the PDRY leader.

Official Talks

JN261358 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 May 80

[Excerpts] Damascus--At 1100 today an official round of talks was held between President Hafiz al-Asad and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee secretary general, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and prime minister in the PDRY. Their discussion centered on developments in the situation in the Arab region, ways of bolstering Arab steadfastness and of confronting the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary onslaught and on the fraternal relations between Syrai and the PDRY. Viewpoints on all issues discussed were identical.

At the outset of the meeting President al-Asad welcomed President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and the PDRY delegation. President al-Asad noted the role played by the PDRY, in its capacity as a revolutionary movement, in enhancing the Arab revolutionary movement. President al-Asad expressed great appreciation of this role and of the PDRY's steadfastness in the face of attempts to abort the march of the revolution and liberation. The president pointed out the similarity in the two states' circumstances of struggle and affirmed Syria's unwavering support for the PDRY. President al-Asad discussed the procedures adopted for confronting the reactionary movements in Syria, movements that are associated with the U.S. imperialist plots against the Arab homeland. The president affirmed the success of these procedures. President al-Asad affirmed that the Arab Syrian people's progressive national awareness is an important factor in confronting such reactionary moves.

President al-Asad said: We know well that imperialism, Zionism and reaction will not leave us alone and that new problems are looming ahead. However, he added, despite all of the difficulties, we are determined on the course of confrontation, since we believe that Syria's steadfastness is the basis of Arab steadfastness. We are also determined to adhere to our principled stands and are optimistic about the future. Our enemies' viciousness will only serve to make us more determined to confront and resist them and to remain steadfast. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed his thanks for the warm hospitality accorded him and the members of the delegation accompanying him. The PDRY president said that his current visit to Syria is an extension of his previous visits and a continuation of contacts between the two states' officials. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad added: Following my assumption of my responsibilities in the party and state, I was concerend about making my first visit outside the PDRY to Syria, as Syria represents the genuine symbol of Arab steadfastness and confrontation. Indeed, Syria's steadfastness means the steadfastness of the liberation movement in the Arab homeland.

'Ali Nasir Muhammad denounced the reactionary movement witnessed by Syria, a movement that has developed under the guise of religion, so as to veil its associations with the imperialist scheme. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad affirmed that Syria and the PDRY are linked by relations of struggle and comradeship. The PDRY president pointed out that any victory achieved by Syria will be considered a PDRY victory, while any blow dealt against Syria will also be dealt against the Palestinian cause, the PDRY and the whole Arab liberation movement. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad stated that the change that has taken place in the PDRY is a slight one, adding that the PDRY adheres to its principled stands and will remain a bastion of Arab steadfastness. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad added: Our stand is a principled one and we in the PDRY support all of the steps you are taking to trample the plotters and to bolster Arab steadfastness. We also consider the steps taken by Syria to be pioneering steps, which we support without any reservations. We wish to bolster our relations with Syria. Another meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and 'Ali Nasir Muhammad will be held at 1700 today.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI HITS COLONIALIST INFLUENCE IN AFRICA

LD251550 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] The leader of the revolution has confirmed that the intention of the colonialist states is to maintain their interests in Africa in order to keep Africa as a farm for Europe and a mine for its factories of Europe. They intend to maintain the colonialist tradition, that is to keep the Africans as slaves and the Europeans as masters.

He said during a meeting this morning with the African ambassadors and representatives of liberation movements in the Jamahiriyah on the occasion of Africa Day that colonialist policies are aimed at keeping Africa as an exploited continent and keeping the Africans backward. The leader explained that when the OAU was established a small number of its countries enjoyed independence but now the majority are independent. What distinguishes this anniversary is the independence of the people of Zimbabwe who were able to extract their independence by force. The leader said although we are proud of the large number of independent states in Africa we have some observations regarding this independence, that is that colonialist states insisted on making the independence of African states a fictitious one. For example, the African French-speaking group is still regarded by France as colonies belonging to it. To confirm this, France follows a tradition of inviting those states every year for a meeting headed by France in order to ensure that they behave in accordance with French policy. The leader added that the continuation of this tradition will abolish the independence of the French-speaking states and that the response of those countries to this tradition is submission to the French will. The leader pointed out that this tradition is shameful to us, the African leaders, and makes a large group of the continent's independent states subordinate to a colonialist state. The leader asked what would have happened had the English-speaking states' subordination to Britain continued? This would mean that Africa was not independent. The leader explained we all know that this relationship and this subordination does not benefit African states; they benefit the important colonialist states. The leader added that the colonialist states are doing everything to maintain this bad situation and said keeping the language of colonialism as the official language of those states is aimed at maintaining the interests of colonialist states. Therefore, when we mark the 17th anniversary of Africa Day we do not recognize the French language or the English language and this is a start to the elimination of this subordination of African countries to colonialist states. Here we only recognize our original African languages: Arabic, Hausa, Swahili and Amharic.

The leader said if the national interests of the African countries subjected to this tradition created by France had benefitted we would not have objected to it. But we see that those countries are still needy and poor and require assistance. The leader explained if France was involved in helping French-speaking states, we should think about limiting the aid and services of the African Cooperation Fund and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa--the bodies in which Libya is a major contributor with about 200 million dinars--to countries which France did not undertake to help. But, the leader said, we know that France is cheating Africa as Africa was cheated by the Israelis in order to expand their racialist entity in South Africa.

The leader pointed out that among the regrettable negative observations is that an African state has recognized the racialist regime in Palestine and revived the racialist regime in the southern part of the continent. It is Egypt. He explained that there is no difference in recognizing the Israelis and the racialists in South Africa, and there is no difference in saying that Palestine belongs to the Israelis or that South Africa belongs to the racialists.

Consequently, what will be our attitude as Africans toward an African country which recognizes the racialist regime in Africa? He said: No doubt we will expell it from the OAU and boycott it. Thus we should think seriously about expelling the Egyptian regime from the OAU because it wants to (?represent) the racialists. The leader said nonexpulsion of the Egyptian regime from the OAU and thinking about the reestablishment of relations with the Israelis would make the Libyan people seriously reconsider their attitude. We will submit the matter to popular conference in order to allow the Libyan people to decide who should receive aid. He pointed out that any resolution taken by the Libyan people would have a serious effect on bilateral aid and that provided through establishments--a matter which would influence the economies of certain African states who depend on this aid, especially if we take into consideration the fact that Libya is the northern gate to Africa and it has tens of joint ventures and is a major participant in economic development establishments in Africa, with tens of embassies in those countries. Add to this the revolutionary influence of Libya in Africa and the world.

The leader then said that the Libyan people would also define its attitude to the continuation of French leadership of the French-speaking African states. The continuation of this would make us think about transferring all Libyan representation to Paris for this is its natural place. Consequently, the French Embassy in Tripoli should be regarded as representing the interests of those countries in Libya.

The leader welcomed the withdrawal of the invading French forces from Chad but expressed regret at the continued civil war in Chad and at the stationing of French forces withdrawn from Chad in other African states such as Central Africa, Cameroon, Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Senegal and Djibouti. This will enable those forces to return to Chad whenever they wished.

The leader said that Libya would do all possible to establish peace in Chad if asked to do so officially. He explained that Libya is capable of this. The leader greeted the African countries enjoying the freedom of decision. Despite the fact that they speak French, they are the progressive African states and with other non-French speaking states give the true face of African dignity. The leader said we are proud of the victory achieved by the Saharan people, of the increased recognition of Saharan Arab Democratic Republic which we as revolutionaries regard as a revolutionary explosion in a region still suffering from feudalism, exploitation and colonialism. This is regarded from the traditional point of view as a matter of self-determination, the right of every group small or big.

The leader ended his speech by saying: Let Africa remain for the Africans! Africa has no alliance other than with itself! Hands off Africa! Long live the original African languages--Arabic, Hausa, Swahili and Amharic!

SEBHA RALLY SUPPORTS REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES

LD252112 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Sebha, May 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--A large popular rally was stated in the city of Sebha today to express support for the third meeting of the revolutionary committees and continuity in the endeavor to destroy the society of oppression and exploitation and set up the new socialist order.

Marching through the main streets and squares of the city, the demonstrators carried green flags and placards affirming the combined pursuit by the masses and revolutionary forces of fighting the remnants of the old regime and constructing the new socialist order.

The rally issued the following statement:

"In confirmation of the eternal humane dicta, in the belief in the vanguard precepts which promise the people of the world final emancipation from the suppression of wage-earning and exploitation, and in feeling a sense of responsibility towards the great historic action for which the revolutionary forces have dedicated themselves in its loyalty to the ideology of the rebel Colonel Mu'ammer al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the grand Al-Fatah revolution and the Libyan Arab peoples who believe in their revolution and Arabism, we, the marching force in this tumultuous rally whose destiny and life has been linked to that of the people's revolution, assert the following:

1. In confirmation of the creative humane dicta in the third universal theory, we unswervingly assert our determination to work unceasingly, locally and abroad, to implement the dicta.

2. We stress that the people's revolution is the sole means for human emancipation from oppression and subjugation. It is the aspired revolution of tomorrow. This tumultuous rally, seen in the city which witnessed the declaration of people's authority and the establishment of the first Jamahiriyah in histroy, affirms its persistence in the policy destroying the society of exploitation and slavery in order to set up the new socialist order, the society of equality and production.

3. We assert the recommendations issued during the third meeting of the revolutionary committees that physical elimination is the ultimate and decisive action in the dialectics of revolutionary conflict, if the previous measures of stripping the adversary of political, economic and social weapons have not ended their activities. In this way we can achieve the society of the peoples who are leaders and masters who hold authority, wealth and arms. It is the society of freedom and equality where there are no masters and slaves.

To the front! Al-Fatah forever! Committees everywhere!

[Signed] The people of the city of Sebha.

22 MAY 'SPONTANEOUS MARCH', MASSES' STATEMENT REPORTED

LD231345 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] The popular masses in Tripoli came out last night in a huge spontaneous march which passed through the streets of Tripoli. The masses expressed their strong determination to continue to strip the exploiting and bourgeois elements of their economic weapons and to crush exploitation in society for the sake of achieving the new socialist society.

The masses participating in the march issued a statement in which they stressed the need to strip the counterforces of their effectiveness in hindering the masses' movement, and stressed that savings in excess of one's needs were obtained from the wealth of society and at the expense of other's needs.

The statement emphasized the eternal cohesion of the masses with the leader of their revolution and their fateful commitment to the precepts of the Great 1 September Revolution. The statement pointed out that the stripping of the exploiting and bourgeois elements of their economic weapons will hasten the formulation of the free and happy socialist society advocated by the Green Book and in which what will be the repletion of material and moral needs and in which everything will be liberated from the domination and subjugation by the society of exploitation to which the revolution had put an end.

In the conclusion the statement of the masses declared that hoarding in excess of one's needs is a transgression against the wealth of society, that individuals in the society of the masses can only store away whatever they need for their own requirements, and that squandering the wealth of other members of the new socialist society is not permitted unless each of them renders public services more than others and produces more than others. [This is followed by recording of voices chanting in praises of Al-Fatah and the 1 September Revolution].

## MAURITANIA

### OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO BOYCOTT MOSCOW GAMES

AB231236 Paris AFP in English 1221 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Nouakchott, 23 May (AFP)--The Mauritanian Olympic Committee unanimously decided yesterday not to take part in this summer's Moscow Olympic, an official communique revealed here today. No official reason for the withdrawal was given, although an informed source here said Mauritania had been influenced by the decision taken by the Islamic conference in March in Islamabad to boycott the games as long as Soviet troops remained in Afghanistan.

## TUNISIA

### TUNISIA DECIDES TO BOYCOTT MOSCOW OLYMPICS

ID261924 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] The Tunisian Olympic Committee met on Monday, 26 May, under the chairmanship of its secretary general, Mr Slaheddine Baly, to look into the question of Tunisian participation in the Moscow Olympics. It issued the following statement: In view of the aggression which the Muslim people of Afghanistan have experienced, and in view of the fact that a large number of the world's youth will not take part in these games [words indistinct], the Tunisian Olympic Committee has decided not to participate.

## WESTERN SAHARA

### STATEMENT ISSUED ON 'SUCCESS' AGAINST MOROCCANS

ID251505 Algiers APS in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Liberated Territory, 25 May, APS--According to a statement issued by the Saharan Information Ministry, the Saharan People's Army inflicted heavy losses on the aggressor royalist Moroccan forces in the area of Abatih on 23 May. The number of Moroccan casualties has risen to 112 killed and a similar number wounded, with 29 tankers and mechanized vehicles destroyed and important quantities of heavy hardware destroyed. The statement added that royalist forces' military positions have also been destroyed and their ammunition and petrol depots set on fire.

DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN RESIGNS OVER DEFENSE BUDGET CUTS

TA250749 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0745 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] A short while ago Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman submitted his resignation from the Cabinet to the prime minister. Minister Weizman read a statement at the beginning of the Cabinet meeting and later left the Cabinet meeting. He is still at the prime minister's office, though. This is reported by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer.

Further on Resignation

TA250757 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0750 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] At the beginning of the Cabinet meeting the defense minister read a prepared statement and then left the meeting. The Cabinet meeting was stopped and the ministers left for consultations.

Deputy Prime Minister Yadin will convene the Democratic Movement's secretariat to discuss the situation. Senior sources in the Democratic Movement told me that they will firmly object to Minister Sharon being appointed Weizman's successor.

The defense minister is going to the Defense Ministry now for talks. It seems that the prime minister will assume the defense minister's post for now.

Letter Submitted to Begin

TA261614 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman's letter, in which he submits his resignation from the post of defense minister, has reached the prime minister's office in Jerusalem. The letter was conveyed by the defense minister's aide-de-camp, Colonel Ilan Tehila.

Report on Weizman Letter

TA261813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 May 80

[Report on Defense Minister Weizman's letter of resignation to Prime Minister Begin]

[Text] Mr Prime Minister: Herewith I submit my resignation as a member of the Israeli Cabinet. My resignation should not come as a surprise to you, since we have been holding sincere talks lately. This sentence opens 'Ezer Weizman's letter of resignation. The letter was submitted to the prime minister by the defense minister's aide-de-camp. Our military correspondent Roni Daniyel reports:

I have explained to you, Weizman writes in this letter, that the gap between our positions was deepening. We differed on too many things in the government's main spheres of action. My reservations regarding the government's peace policy, the economic program, its social policy and its functioning increasingly strengthened. I felt that the recognition was building up inside me that our ways were gradually separating and that soon I would no longer be able to serve in your Cabinet. Now this realization has ripened and the time for my retirement has arrived.

It is only natural, the letter goes on to say, that at this time I cannot avoid recalling the hopes and good wishes accompanying this government in its very first days. The expectations pinned on us fed the elections campaign in which I played an active and leading role, they fostered the nation's desire to see an improvement in all areas of our life. Without these hopes and expectations we would not have had the right to actually realize the important principle of democracy--the change of government in our state.

However, as time went by I realized that the expectations pinned on us had no real foundation and that as high as the expectations were, so was the disappointment. At the beginning I refused to admit the government's failures. I still believed that all the distorted factors could be amended and I continued to serve in your Cabinet. However, when many months elapsed the fact could no longer be hidden that the promise to improve the nation's conditions had not been fulfilled.

Weizman continues: At the beginning of our term we were able to claim that we were not to be blamed and that for the time being we were fulfilling the promises undertaken by our predecessors. We explained that we had inherited a heavy inheritance which could hardly be lifted. However, when 2 and 3 years passed, the explanations, reasons and excuses wore out and did not serve us anymore.

The IDF cannot be maintained according to the delusions of the monthly index and based on the changes of mood of the economic minicabinet. The handling of the defense budget very well reflects the government's path and functioning in all spheres. Decisions were not made following deep though and serious planning, but following improvisation.

On the issue of peace with Egypt, too, I am not reconciled with the government's policy, the defense minister writes. The path for strengthening and solidifying peace is obviously wide open, but has not been taken. Instead of making slow but determined moves towards comprehensive and stable peace, we are marking time.

In its years of independence the Israeli nation has known its ups and downs, times of ebb and flow. However, it seems that it has never been as depressed and bitter as it has been in the last few years. Its spirit did not collapse because of difficulties and miseries, but because of a leadership sewing gloom. Whoever insists on sowing gloom reaps despair.

I do not believe in a black-prophecy policy which does not reveal the light at the end of the tunnel. The Israeli people have known times of happiness and hope during your term in office. Those were the days when peace seemed ready to be signed. This people believed in it. The nation also had faith in the government. It was not the people who stopped believing in peace.

Through true leadership, another spirit could have been ignited and the vast potential we possess could have found its expression, be it the best of our youths serving in the IDF or the hundreds of thousands of good and loyal citizens who harbor feelings of love toward their motherland, true Zionism and love for their fellow human beings. There, Mr Prime Minister, you had a rare opportunity. However, the defense minister concludes, you missed it. This is the defense minister's letter of resignation.

BEGIN REPLIES TO WEIZMAN'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION

TA262232 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2200 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Jerusalem, 26 May--The full text of the prime minister's reply to the letter sent by the resigning defense minister follows:

Jerusalem, 26 May
To Mr 'Ezer Weizman, the defense minister, Haqirya, Tel Aviv
Defense Minister, Sir,

I hereby thankfully endorse the recept of your letter of 26 May 1980 in which you inform me, as required by law, of your resignation from your post in the Israeli Government.

I received your letter of resignation at 1800. If you do not rescind your resignation by this time on Wednesday, 28 May, your membership in the Cabinet will be cancelled according to clause 21 a of the basic law on the government.

And now, to the content of your letter. I will start from its end. I wish to thank you for the good lesson you have given me on the love of one's motherland, true Zionism and the love of your fellow man. I will not forget it. And now let us go back to the beginning.

Indeed, we have recently conducted talks, in the course of which you twice threatened to leave the Cabinet. You have done the same thing before, at relatively frequent intervals. However, although your resignation did not come as a surprise to me after your persistent demands--during the pentecost holiday as well--I realized that the reason, or the desire to resign, was due to the finance minister's demand to also cut the defense budget, whereas in your letter you elaborate on all the state's spheres of action. I wonder.

You recall the election campaign to the Ninth Knesset in which you took part, together with the "Dahaf" publicity company. However, for some reason, you do not deem fit to remind the public--since your letter was meant to be made public--that you conducted the entire election campaign under the slogan of calling on the people to elect me prime minister.

For understandable reasons, I refrain from repeating all the acclaim and praises you published, the continuous call to trust me as the person who is capable of being the Israeli prime minister. Perhaps, to some extent this call had an impact on the Israeli electorate. It is amazing that you have failed to mention it.

I also remember that when we were together in Isma'ilia and conducted important talks with President as-Sadat and his aides, you whispered in my ear during an important argument with the Egyptians: "How good that you are the prime minister." And I even remember that many times you deemed it appropriate to tell me, while recalling the names of great personages: "You will be remembered in history as the man who signed the peace treaty with Egypt." And I also remeber that only 14 months ago, after I signed the peace treaty on Israel's behalf and after I made a certain speech, you praised it with unprecedented superlatives which I never heard from another person.

Suddenly, you do not like anything referring to the actions of the Israeli Government, especially the issue of peace. I reacted to this paragraph today out of a national obligation. However, I want to repeat it literally so that it forms a part of my reply to you: "On the issue of peace with Egypt, too, I am not reconciled with the government's policy. The path for strengthening and solidifying peace is obviously wide open, but has not been taken. Instead of making slow but determined moves towards comprehensive and stable peace, we are marking time."

The prime minister wants to assert that this is a grave accusation. A person who served as a defense minister in the Israeli Government for about 3 years is charging it with the responsibility for not making any progress in the peace efforts.

Obviously, he knows that this accusation is without foundation. We signed a peace treaty with Egypt and we made enormous sacrifices for its sake. The negotiating committee on the autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip has conducted negotiations while remaining loyal to the Camp David accords, with good will, and has been exerting unceasing efforts to reach an agreement.

The Egyptian proposals regarding Jerusalem, the issue of security and the nature of autonomy are absolutely contradictory to the Camp David accords and threaten Israeli's security, future and existence. These proposals were the reason for Egypt's hindering of the negotiations, which they also suspended twice.

If the resigning defense minister states before--despite these facts and despite the fact that he himself had to reject General 'Ali's proposals on the issue of the security--both [Israel] and other nations that the Israeli Government was responsible for the "marking of time," this is an act of immeasurable gravity.

You were driven to shocking frivolity out of the desire to again be portrayed in certain foreign countries as the only "peace-seeker" in a government formed by people foiling peace.

I assure you, honorable Mr Weizman, that we will straighten out the injustice you have committed against the truth, the government and each of its members.

You had the opportunity--and perhaps, I was the one who supplied it to you--to fulfill the important post of defense minister in the Israeli Government in a very significant period. However, out of impatience and rashness as many people remember from the history of the Herut Movement, in fact you also tried to depose me from my post overtly--in a television program while I was in the United States carrying out an important national mission, including settling the issue of engines for the "Lavi" aircraft and in a special meeting with the U.S. President--through intrigues which could not be kept secret, in order to assume my position.

You were again utterly defeated in your subversion. You were given, Mr Defense Minister, a rare opportunity but you have forsaken it out of maddening ambition.

Sincerely yours, Menahem Begin

Further Begin Reaction

TA261844 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer will soon enter our Knesset studio. He has the prime minister's reaction to 'Ezer Weizman's letter of resignation. At the beginning of our program we heard almost the full contents of the letter written by the defense minister. The resignation takes effect 48 hours after the letter is submitted. Perhaps Shim'on Schiffer is already at the studio.

[Schiffer] This is the prime minister's reaction as dictated to us a few minutes ago:

Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's letter of resignation reached the prime minister at 1800 this evening. The prime minister will reply to the resignation of the defense minister tomorrow. However, this evening, while not reacting to several serious paragraphs--a reaction will be published after the defense minister is informed, as a courtesy--the prime minister felt a national duty to immediately react to the following paragraph in Weizman's letter:

On the issue of peace with Egypt, I too am not reconciled with the government's policy. According to the defense minister, we are not walking the path of strengthening and solidifying peace. Instead of making slow but determined moves toward comprehensive and stable peace, we are marking time.

The prime minister wants to assert that this is an immense accusation. A person who served as a defense minister in the Israeli Government for about 3 years is charging it with the responsibility of not making any progress in the peace efforts. Obviously, he knows that this accusation is without foundation, the prime minister says. We signed a peace treaty with Egypt and we made enormous sacrifices for its sake. The negotiating committee on the autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip has conducted negotiations while remaining loyal to the Camp David accords, with good will, and has been exerting unceasing efforts to reach an agreement.

The Egyptian proposals regarding Jerusalem, the issue of security and the nature of the autonomy are absolutely contradictory to the Camp David accords and threaten Israel's security and future existence. These proposals were the reason why Egypt obstructed the negotiations and suspended them twice.

If the resigning defense minister states before--despite these facts and despite the fact that he himself had to reject General 'Ali's proposals on the issues of the security--both [Israel] and other nations that the Israeli Government was responsible for--as he put it--marking time, this is an act of immeasurable gravity, the prime minister writes.

Thus far, according to the prime minister's announcement, Mr Begin is shocked by the grave accusations included in 'Ezer Weizman's letter. Mr Begin told me: 'Ezer Weizman's accusations are of international seriousness. It seems that Mr Begin will very shortly issue a detailed reaction to 'Ezer Weizman's remarks.

Begin Said 'Shocked'

TA270609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 May 80

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer--recorded]

[Excerpt] Last night, the prime minister was shocked when he read 'Ezer Weizman's letter. He told me that the letter could be used by Egypt and the United States to blame Israel for delaying the autonomy negotiations.

WEIZMAN: TONE OF BEGIN'S REPLY LETTER 'ANGRY'

TA270612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 May 80

[Text] 'Ezer Weizman has said the prime minister's letter is an angry letter, whereas his own statements are an expression of the feelings of many members of both the Herut Movement and the Cabinet. However, he said, those persons are afraid to voice their views.

REPORTAGE ON CABINET SESSION, WEIZMAN RESIGNATION

Weizman Criticizes Hurvitz

TA251557 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Today Minister Weizman made the acousation that the Cabinet does not treat security issues with due seriousness. The Israeli Cabinet does not have an economic policy and this has led the people to sink into a bad mood. Our military correspondent Gad Becker brings more of Weizman's remarks:

[Begin recording] Minister Weizman's remarks at the Cabinet meeting today were aimed at the finance minister and the government's functioning in many spheres. We have left the people in low spirits, Weizman says. The budget and the disgraceful argument raging around it, according to Weizman, was the last straw. In the fight over the budget the Finance Ministry represented the defense system as wasteful and inefficient and this came after the budget law and the measures intended to fight price rises were concluded in long discussions among the various ministries and their leaders. Weizman says he has introduced cuts in his budget on his own initiative, wishing to contribute to the people's welfare.

Weizman places the blame for the handling of the budget 5 weeks after it was concluded on Minister Hurvitz. This is a late awakening which indicates the malfunctioning of the government in other spheres as well. There are many spheres where there is no plan and even if there is one it is not followed to the end, Weizman says, enumerating the spheres where, in his opinion, the Cabinet has failed: high inflation, emigration from Israel and relations with the United States, and world Jewry. The Cabinet does not treat the distressing security issues with due seriousness, Weizman says. How much thought has been given to the significance of the existence of certain military items in Jordan or in Syria, Weizman asks.

Weizman brought data about the success of the security production system. He said that Minister Hurvitz was not correct to make everything seem black. There is no economic policy in Israel, only a policy of imposing decrees, Weizman concluded. I am not looking for a compromise that will enable me to remain in the government, Weizman said, ending with gratitude for the cooperation accorded him in the years of joint work. [end recording]

Further on Weizman Criticism

TA261429 Jerusalem POST in English 26 May 80 p 1

[By Hirsh Goodman, POST military correspondent]

[Text] Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's letter of resignation, due to reach the prime minister's office this morning, will formalize the end of the minister's three-year tenure at the Defense Ministry.

The reasons for his resignation were delivered to the Cabinet yesterday in a carefully worded attack on the government's overall performance and on what he termed Finance Minister Yida'el Hurvitz's persistent efforts to disguise his own failures by blaming the defense establishment for the country's economic ailments.

Weizman told his former colleagues that the IDF was stronger than any government. He said it would survive intact the relentless and injurious diatribes being directed against it by people such as Hurvitz.

The Treasury had gone out of its way, he complained, to portray the army as wasteful. It was ironic, he noted toward the end of his 10-minute speech, that Hurvitz, who had once resigned because he was against the peace plan, should be the one to cut the defense budget despite the advice of the country's military experts.

"If you prove correct, and I hope you don't, that the peace process breaks down, then you will have to carry full responsibility for your actions. You will have to take responsibility if there is a lack of ammunition and material," Weizman told Hurvitz.

But Weizman made it clear that Hurvitz and the latest budget cuts were not only the reason for his resignation. The government, he said, had caused damage in almost every field.

Not a single decision they had taken, he said, had been carried out--even those he did not agree with. He described the settlement policy as catastrophic because the government planned for a future it did not have the budget to pay for. The government was simply incapable of following through on any plan--economic, social, settlement, or defense, he said.

"Where have you led the nation to," he asked. "Just look at the relation between emigration and immigration," he advised. "You have depressed and discouraged the people from almost every point of view--policy, economy, Jewishness, Zionism, settlement and defense."

He reminded the assembled ministers that it was he who was primarily responsible for the Likud's victory, and that he had mocked the Alignment at the time for bringing 25 percent inflation upon the nation--"and we have managed to bring it up to over 100 percent...."

Despite the government, he continued, the country was strong in many fields. Weizman noted that military exports this year were $650 million, and would grow to over $1 billion next year.

"I have refused the path chosen by you," he said, again directing himself at Hurvitz," to paint all in black. There is much positive." He ended by reminding Hurvitz that he would have to carry full responsibility for his actions should there be a war.

Weizman's talk was delivered from a prepared text. The minister had to literally barge into the Cabinet proceedings, despite an earlier agreement to allow him to make a statement after Begin had started the regular agenda. After completing his statement, Weizman left the Cabinet room without a word of farewell to or from Begin.

Ministers Criticize Hurvitz

TA251529 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] At the Cabinet session several ministers leveled bitter criticism at the finance minister for the way he recently handled economic problems in general and the need to cut the defense budget in particular. This has been learned by our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer. Minister Aharon abu-Hatzera said that he had never seen a minister with public experience who functions as poorly as Hurvitz recently has. He claimed that the Treasury paid increments three times larger than the subsidies it had canceled. Abu-Hatzera said that the Likud ministers constantly make suicide attempts--jumping off the 10th floor--expecting him and his fellow NRP members to serve as shock absorbers.

Minister Sharon said that he can only snigger in reaction to all the threats of resignations that have so far been heard round the cabinet table. He expressed his regret over 'Ezer Weizman's resignation and said that he should have remained in the Cabinet because we need a man like 'Ezer Weizman now. Minister Sharon supported the cuts in the Cabinet ministry budgets and demanded that the Treasury present a long-term plan.

Ministers Moda'i, Levi and Katz also leveled harsh criticism at the way the finance minister implemented his policy in the last few weeks. The prime minister did not ask for the floor and merely stated that the defense minister left the Cabinet without allowing his colleagues to have the opportunity to voice their words of thanks.

Text of Hurvitz Budget Proposal

TA251005 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 25 May 80 p 1

[Text] The disputed proposal Finance Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz intends to submit to the Cabinet contains eight clauses and was discussed by the economic minicabinet last week.

The full text of the proposal is as follows:

A) Government spending will be in line with its income.

B) Nominal spending during the first half of the year will not, in any case, deviate from the partial budget framework approved for 1980.

C) The government ministries will adapt their current programs to what is demanded by the nominal framework determined as an upper limit.

D) Beginning today, all new contacts and the signing of new contracts will be frozen, both in the normal budget and in the development budget. This will last until the conclusion of the examination of the program's adaptation to the approved budget.

E) By the end of May the ministries, in cooperation with the budget department, will work out programs for contacts that will be adapted to the above decisions and the contracts of the accountant-general, 1980--from 29 April 1980--and the budgetary authority of 4 May 1980 concerning the speed with which the budget will be implemented during the May-September 1980 period.

F) Credit ceilings for local activities will be frozen at the current nominal level so that credit in the economy will not grow.

G) The government will encourage increased savings.

H) The requirement to place deposits on imports will be extended for another 6 months.

Hurvitz Proposal Adopted

TA251424 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] The Cabinet unanimously decided to cut its expenses, primarily by postponing plans. The finance minister will hold talks with all the ministers on cutting their budgets and will present the Cabinet with a consolidated plan in 2 weeks. Until then, all new contracts will be frozen and cabinet ministries will not sign any new contracts.

The Finance Ministry regards the decision as an important achievement. However, Minister Hurvitz has said that further difficulties are still to be expected in translating the decision into deeds.

Most of the Cabinet ministers think that 'Ezer Weizman's resignation will not bring about the fall of the government. The Democratic and Liberal ministers said that the possibility that the defense portfolio will be entrusted to Minister Sharon has created a new situation. They want to hold consultations before taking a final stand regarding Sharon's candidacy. Our correspondent Razi Barqay waited for the ministers, who emerged from the 6-hour-long Cabinet session: [begin recording]

[Barqay] The ministers emerged from the lengthy cabinet session tired. They tried to tell the reporters: No matter, the Cabinet has not fallen; the defense minister left, but the coalition is still as strong as ever.

The chief protagonists in the affair refuse to talk: Minister Weizman, the prime minister who is rushing home, Minister Ari'el Sharon, who is regarded as Weizman's replacement. Yet another protagonist, Minister Yiga'el Hurvitz, told us: Weizman maneuvered himslef to a point of no return.

[Hurvitz] I understood that one cannot continue any longer in the present situation. All of us understood this. In fact the entire public was surprised that 'EzerWeizman wanted early elections and has in fact expressed no-confidence in the Cabinet, of which he is part. As I said some time ago, a tenant who hits his neighbors creates a unbearable situation. The time has come, irrespective of the discussion of the defense budget or inflation--all these problems are unnecessary. He could not remain in the cabinet while attacking it, while he himself was condemning it, making fun of it, scorning it. This was an unbearable situation.

[Barqay] The Liberal ministers consulted with each other. It is no secret that Simha Ehrlich strongly opposes the appointment of Ari'el Sharon as defense minister. The question is whether he will be able to unite the party and find a common language with Minister Moda'i. Nor will the Democrats accept such an appointment gladly. At the end of the Cabinet session Yiga'el Yadin said: this is the issue which the party executive will discuss tomorrow.

[Yadin] In general, ministers are appointed by the parties in accordance with the division [of votes]. There can be such circumstances about which our party will have a stand. This will be one of the issues we will discuss tomorrow at the executive session.

[Barqay] So Weizman has resigned, but the crisis is not over. What is now on the agenda is the question of the heir.

Hurvitz, Levi Comment on Adoption

TA251535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Minister Hurvitz said that the Cabinet, and especially Mr Begin, had given full backing and the ministers understood that they had to support him, even though the decision was a difficult one.

Construction Minister David Levi said that there is nothing final in the Cabinet resolution. He believes it will be possible to continue the construction momentum even after the budget is readjusted. Minister Levi said that the method of making periodic cuts in Cabinet ministries' budgets has not yet been proven capable of curbing inflation and cannot be used instead of a consolidated economic plan. Such a plan, he said, has neither been presented to the Cabinet in the past, nor was it submitted today.

GOVERNMENT, PARTY OFFICIALS REACT TO WEIZMAN RESIGNATION

Interior Minister Burg

TA252008 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 May 80

[Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg interviewed by correspondents Yoram Ronen and Elimelekh Ram in front of the prime minister's office after today's cabinet session--videotaped]

[Text] [Ronen] Dr Burg, do you not think that the defense minister's resignation will harm the autonomy talks, with the government becoming more hawkish?

[Burg] First, the Cabinet has not yet decided that it is more hawkish. The Cabinet has decided that it will be consistent. Secondly, we conducted the talks for several months without the defense minister, to my deep regret. When a new defense minister is appointed, he will participate.

[Ronen] Who do you think the new defense minister will be?

[Burg] I am not a prophet; moreover, this is the prime minister's prerogative [last word in English].

[Ram] Dr Burg, your colleague Minister Abu-Hatzera told us after the Cabinet session that in his opinion Mr Weizman's resignation weakens the government. Do you share this view?

[Burg] We will see. I cannot say that the resignation constitutes a strengthening [of the Cabinet] at this moment; that would go against the facts and would run counter to my assessment. I hope the Cabinet will be able to overcome the damage caused by the resignation of an important member to Israel's status in the world.

Other Cabinet Ministers

TA251735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Here are several reactions of Cabinet members in light of 'Ezer Weizman's resignation: Simha Ehrlich said that the possibility that Ari'el Sharon would handle security affairs does not seem realistic to him. He told our correspondent Razi Barqay that Ari'el Sharon is doing an important job as agriculture minister and there is no reason why he should be replaced. Simha Ehrlich said that 'Ezer Weizman is a concept and a symbol in the Likud and the party will not be able to forego him and his services.

Yig'ael Hurvitz: Weizman's decision is timely. He could not be a member of a Cabinet which he constantly sneered at.

Zvulun Hammer: The NRP will not consider withdrawing from the Cabinet in view of Weizman's resignation. The appointment of an heir is a complex and delicate issue and one need not elaborate on it.

David Levi's reaction: The Herut Likud faction should produce the candidate for the post.

Opposition Leader Peres

TA251632 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] There is a reasonable chance that there will be early elections. This was said today by MK Shim'on Peres in his meeting with high school children in Ashqelon. 'Ezra Yanuv heard Shim'on Peres and brings the main points of his remarks.

[Begin recording] The Ashqelon students posed many questions to MK Shim'on Peres about his reaction to Weizman's resignation. Among other things peres reacted by saying that there may be early elections, although this is not certain. The support for the government has decreased. It is supported by only 65 Knesset members, he said. MK Shim'on Peres said he regreted that Weizman has resigned. This has greatly weakened the government and it will be in the state's interest to hold early elections. The peace negotiations should be conducted before the U.S. presidential elections.

When he was asked whether he would be prepared to accept 'Ezer Weizman as defense minister in the cabinet he will be forming, [if the Alignment wins the elections] he said: 'Ezer did not turn to me nor did he ask me to become a member of my party. I do not see 'Ezer joining the Labor Party. [end recording]

Peres Congratulates Weizman

TA251635 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has contacted 'Ezer Weizman's resignation as a wise and honest move. The labor Party reactions team says that even if the Cabinet continues to exist for a while, it no longer exists in public or national terms. It has caused the economy to collapse, has jeopardized the political process and may now hamper the defense establishment.

The Hatehiya movement said that the solution to the crisis lies not in personnel reshuffle, but in changing the policy. The Camp David agreements must be revised and the Cabinet must resign, Hatehiya says.

Liberal Knesset Faction

TA261633 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] The Knesset Herut faction, with the participation of the prime minister, is still discussing the appointment of the next defense minister.

Our correspondents in the Knesset Arye Golan and Tzvi Yisra'eli report that members of the Liberal Party are demanding that the defense portfolio be given to a member of the Liberal Party. This proposal was raised by Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i at the meeting of the Knesset Liberal faction. It was supported by Deputy Prime Minister Ehrlich and Knesset Member Sharir. At the end of the meeting, the Liberal Party decided that the party's ministers would ask to meet with the prime minister before the latter appoints a new defense minister. Afterwards, the ministers will again consult the members of their faction. The Knesset Liberal faction also decided to send a delegation to 'Ezer Weizman to ask him to retract his resignation. This proposal was raised by MK Menahem Savidor. However, the ministers attending the meeting objected to it.

Democratic Movement Secretariat

TA261634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] The Democratic Movement Secretariat demands that any change in the distribution of Cabinet portfolios should be coordinated with them. The Democrats expressed their hope that a defense minister would be appointed soon. Only one secretariat member, Moti Te'ori, suggested that the movement withdraw from the Cabinet.

At the Democratic Movement meeting, Deputy Prime Minister Yadin expressed great anger against Weizman. He said that Weizman was moderate only outwardly. In fact, he cooperated with Minister Ari'el Sharon in establishing settlements. Professor Yadin emphasized that in many instances he was left alone against Ministers Sharon and Weizman in the struggle on the settlements issue.

Mapam Center

TA261553 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1450 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Tel Aviv, 26 May--The Mapam Center discussed Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's resignation and its impact on the future of the Likud government and adopted the following decision:

"Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's resignation is the result of a cumulative radicalization in Israel's foreign policy and the failure of the Begin government's internal policy. 'Ezer Weizman is the victim and the evidence of this continuing process.

"A person who cannot discharge his duties as prime minister is certainly unable to assume the defense portfolio. On the other hand, handing over the defense portfolio to the next person in line in the Herut Movement will further increase the radical line of the Likud-NRP government and will deepen its internal and external entrapment.

"Precisely at a time when Israel needs a united, wise and powerful government the steering wheel is taken by a divided and confused team, lacking any sense of insight. Begin's last patriotic contribution would be to return the mandate entrusted to him to the president of the state and the target date for doing so is: yesterday."

## Herut Knesset Faction

TA261732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] The prime minister said that he intended to appoint the next defense minister soon. However, he did not even hint as his choice. The prime minister made these remarks at a meeting of the Knesset Herut faction which convened to discuss this issue in the afternoon.

The Herut faction decided that the appointment is completely in the hands of the prime minister. The faction also expressed its hope that the appointment would be made soon. In the debate, some members said that the candidate should be a Herut member. However, this was not formulated as a decision because it would have contradicted the intention to give exclusive authority to the prime minister.

Our correspondent notes that only MK Moshe Qatzav expressed regret at Weizman's retirement. Other faction members said there was nothing to be sorry about.

## NRP Knesset Faction

TA261732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] The NRP Knesset faction also entrusted its ministers with the duty of asking the prime minister to appoint a defense minister soon. Our correspondent reports that at the faction meeting a majority emerged favoring the opinion that Weizman's resignation was not a motive for discussing the government's situation or the need to advance elections at once. Nevertheless, most members of the faction agreed that the need for holding such a debate would arise within a few weeks.

Knesset Members Druckman, Sheinman, Rubin and Stern-Qatan came out in favor of strengthening the government. Opposed to them, Knesset Members Glass, Melamed, Avtavi and ben-Me'ir said that the situation of the government and the possibility of advancing elections should be discussed. Minister Hammer said that at this stage there was no need to discuss advancing the elections. Minister Burg said that one should wait a few weeks, watch developments and then decide whether it was necessary to discuss the government's situation. Minister abu-Hatzera said that 'Ezer Weizman's retirement made it difficult for him to sit in the Cabinet. However, early elections should not be discussed for the time being.

## Rakah Spokesman

TA251453 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1443 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Tel Aviv, 25 May--The following is the Rakah spokesman's announcement, MK Tawfiq Tubi reacts to 'Ezer Weizman's resignation: Weizman's resignation reflects the deep crisis in which the Likud government is embroiled, a crisis which is growing deeper and deeper as a result of the annexationist policy, the expansion of settlement activity and the extremization of policy toward the Arab-Palestinian people.

The Likud government, implementing Gush Emunim's policy, has aggravated Israel's political predicament in the region and in the entire world and has worsened the crisis of Israeli society. Begin's policy is pushing the state to chaos--economic and social alike--and increases the chances of fascism. Therefore, Begin and his Cabinet must resign and early elections must be called without delay.

FURTHER REACTION TO WEIZMAN RESIGNATION CITED

Bethlehem Mayor

TA250941 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj said that Minister Weizman's resignation is tantamount to regression in the political situation. He praised Weizman's political views and leadership abilities, saying he had demonstrated deep understanding of the situation in the region.

Gaza Mayor

TA250942 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0917 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Gaza Mayor Rashad Ash-Shawwa reacted to Weizman's resignation by saying that this resignation means that the power of the Israeli Cabinet's extremists has risen. The Palestinians feel that their problems will not find an attentive ear in any other defense minister, according to Rashad ash-Shawwa.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ali

TA251410 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Kamal Hasan 'Ali expressed regret about Weizman's resignation, saying he has made a great contribution to promoting the peace treaty. 'Ali said that yesterday he tried to call Weizman several times, but could not reach him. He said he intends to call him again since he views him as a friend. I will not ask him to revoke his decision to resign, since that would be interference in Israeli affairs.

Lebanese Christian Leader Haddad

TA251127 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Major Haddad expressed his deep regret about Weizman's resignation, saying that the southern Lebanese Christians had excellent relations with 'Ezer Weizman. He was confident that Israel's attitude toward the region would not change.

BEGIN WELCOMES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE BOYCOTT DECISION

TA231156 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Here is the prime minister's reaction to the Olympic Committee's decision to boycott the Olympic Games in Moscow. The prime minister said: I received the Israeli Olympic Committee's decision with great satisfaction. This morning I phoned [Committee Chairman] Yitzhaq Ofeq and thanked him for the decision, which is of high moral importance to the state of Israel.

LATE REPORT: SHAMIR NAMED AS NEW DEFENSE MINISTER

TA271305 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 May 80

[Text] The prime minister has decided that the next defense minister will by Yitzhaq Shamir. His post as foreign minister will be given to Yitzhaq Moda'i. This has been learned by our correspondent Tzvi Yisra'eli. This report has not been confirmed by any other source, but our correspondent notes that the Knesset Secretariat has started dealing with organizing a special Knesset session on Thursday to approve these appointments. So far, no decision has been made as to who will head the Energy and Communications Ministry.

## ETHIOPIA

### AFRICA DAY MESSAGES TO MENGISTU MARK OAU ANNIVERSARY

#### Message From Brezhnev

LD262058 Addis Ababa in English to neighboring countries 1530 GMT 26 May 80 EA

[Text] Comrade President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union has congratulated Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the founding of the OAU. In his message, the Soviet leader said that the national liberation movements in Africa had scored yet another victory with the independence of Zimbabwe and expressed his faith in a similar triumph by Namibia under the leadership of SWAPO. He also expressed the belief that an end would also be put to the most shameful actions of our epoch--South African apartheid. Comrade Brezhnev pointed out that the 1960 UN declaration in granting of independence to colonized countries and peoples must be fully implemented without any exception. He pledged the support of the Soviet people for the struggle of Africa against imperialist exploitation of the continent. Comrade Brezhnev also expressed strong Soviet support to the activities of the OAU aimed at the development of good neighbourliness and the peaceful solution of disputes and conflicts.

#### Message From Castro

LD251620 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 25 May 80 EA

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz sent a congratulatory message to Comrade Chairman Mengistu Haile Mariam on the occasion of the Africa Day which is being observed throughout the continent today. In his message to Comrade Mengistu, Comrade Fidel Castro expressed fraternal greetings on behalf of the people, the Communist Party and Government of Cuba, to the provisional military administrative council and the Ethiopian people. He hailed the Ethiopian revolution for its contribution to the general independence and social progress of the African Continent and expressed in his message for the continued strengthening of the fraternal relations between the peoples and governments of Socialist Ethiopia and the Republic of Cuba.

### LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

#### Visits Military Camp

LD231850 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 23 May 80 EA

[Text] The Liberian delegation led by Mr Gabriel B. Matthews, the foreign minister of the Liberian military government, visited the Tatek military base this afternoon. The delegation was met on arrival by Comrade Afework Wolde Mikael, the base commander, and other senior officers. Comrade Colonel Afework Wolde Mikael gave the visiting delegation a lengthy briefing on the historical development of the base. Later, the delegation visited the 25 July hospital, the political school and the museum. At the end of the visit the delegation was presented with gifts by Comrade Col Afework Wolde Mikael. Finally, Mr Gabriel signed the visitors book and expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to him and other members of the delegation.

#### Departs Ethiopia

LD241905 Addis Ababa in English to neighboring countries 1530 GMT 24 May 80 EA

[Text] Mr Gabriel Matthews, foreign minister of Liberia, and the high-level delegation he was leading left yesterday after a brief working visit.

Mr Matthews told reporters at the airport that there was much that could be said in terms of the similarities between the Ethiopian and Liberian peoples and that the two countries can learn from each other's experiences.

He said the purpose of his delegation's tour of African countries was to identify new avenues of cooperation and noted that the results were in many ways positive.

The Liberian foreign minister said that the nonaligned countries have mutual interests in common which can best be protected through closer cooperation.

## TANZANIA

### DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS MEET WITH NYERERE

LD241908 Dar es Salaam in English to east Africa 1600 GMT 24 May 80 EA

[Text] Leaders of the Uganda Democratic Party arrived in Dar es Salaam today for talks with President Nyerere. The discussions, lasting 3 hours, took place at state house, Dar es Salaam.

The 11-man delegation of the Uganda Democratic Party was led by its chairman, Ndugu Paul Samwogere.

The delegation has already left Dar es Salaam for home.

## UGANDA

### DAR ES SALAAM: OBOTE TO RETURN TO UGANDA 27 MAY

LD251454 Dar es Salaam in English to east Africa 1300 GMT 25 May 80 EA

[Text] Kampala--A hero's welcome awaits the former Ugandan president, Ndugu Milton Obote, when he returns home on Tuesday, May 27th after 9 years in exile in Tanzania. The secretary of the Uganda People's Congress [UPC] Convention Committee and minister of culture and community development, Ndugu Abonia Tiberdondwa, has appealed to the people of Bushenyi and other districts to turn up in large numbers to give Dr Obote a most fitting welcome. The Uganda news agency reported that on arrival Ndugu Obote will address a UPC rally at Ishaka.

### MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION SWORN IN

LD231853 Kampala International Service in English 1630 GMT 23 May 80 EA

[Text] The chairman of the Ugandan National Liberation Front [UNLF] Military Commission, Mr Paulo Muwanga, has urged the members of the Presidential Commission to lead the country in the direction of democratic government.

Speaking at the swearing-in ceremony of the three members of the commission, Mr Muwanga also urged them to continue building a healthy atmosphere under which all Ugandans would be able to participate in free and fair elections which are due to be held before the end of this year.

He told the three, Mr Justice Musoke, Mr Justice (Nyamuchoncho) and Mr Wacha-Olwol, to dedicate themselves to the noble cause of rebuilding the country and serving the people. He urged them to work hand in hand with the Military Commission to maintain and even improve on the security situation in the country.

The ceremony was witnessed by members of the Military Commission, cabinet ministers and other high ranking government officials.

## CAMEROON

### OLYMPIC COMMITTEE DECIDES TO PARTICIPATE IN MOSCOW GAMES

AB240950 Paris AFP in French 0925 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Yaounde, 24 May (AFP)--The Cameroonian Olympic Committee agreed on Saturday to participate in the Moscow Olympic Games. This decision did not come as a surprise, because the president of the committee, Professor Rene Essomba, announced about 2 months ago that he was opposed to the boycott in order to avoid drawing sports into politics. For its part, the Cameroonian Government has not taken any official stand.

## CONGO

### CHAD'S KAMOUGUE ARRIVES, INTERVIEWED BY PRESS

AB231635 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Col Abdelkader Kamougue, vice president of the transitional national union government of Chad arrived in Brazzaville today at noon. He was received on arrival by Col Louis Sylvain Goma, prime minister and head of government, accompanied by Comrade Pierre Nze, the Congolese foreign affairs and cooperation minister.

Colonel Kamougue told the press that he had come to our country to inform President Denis Sassou-N'Guesso about the evolution of the situation in Chad. [begin recording]

[Kamougue] You are no doubt aware that there is a very serious problem in Chad and that the People's Republic of Congo has been trying to help find a solution to the problem. I therefore felt it would be useful on my arrival here to inform President Denis Sassou-N'Guesso about the evolution of this situation.

[Question from unidentified reporter] Mr Vice President, the Chadian crisis preoccupies the whole world and yet the solutions which have been proposed up until now remain ineffective. In your opinion what are the essential causes of this and by what means do you intend to restore peace to the country?

[Answer] In fact, the Chadian problem has lasted for 15 years. The people have suffered a lot from it. [short passage indistinct] For this problem to be solved it is absolutely necessary to (?look for) any form of Chadian solution because it is a Chadian affair and we think that any solution imported from outside cannot constitute an adequate solution for us. It is therefore absolutely necessary for the Chadians to be associated with each other and also the Chadians must, that is, their leaders must, show some political maturity and also political [word indistinct] to tackle the problem fully. Concerning the causes, they are either imputed to religious differences or to opposition between the north and the south and in the present circumstances one has the impression that in fact the evaluations which have been made of this problem are false. It is therefore necessary for us Chadians to review the situation, but I think it is not my duty to reveal here what I personally think is the solution to the problem. I think that during a press conference I made a suggestion, namely, regionalization, because it is absolutely necessary for Chadians to learn how to live together once more. [end recording]

The Chadian statesman will be received this afternoon by the president of the Central Committee, head of state and president of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Dennis Sassou-N'Guesso.

SASSOU-N'GUESSO RECEIVES GDR PEOPLE'S MILITIA DELEGATION

AB231705 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] The delegation of the People's Militia of the German Democratic Republic [GDR] was received this morning by the president of the Central Committee and president of the republic, Comrade Denis Sassou-N'Guesso. After this meeting our correspondent met the leader of the German delegation, who gave him his impressions about the meeting.

[Begin (Nasov Ulov) recording] In general I would like to say that we came from the GDR to exchange opinions and experiences in the fields of organization and development with the People's Militia.

[Question] Comrade, could you enlighten us on the state of cooperation between the militia of the GDR and the Congolese militia?

[Answer] For more than a year the relations between the militia of the workers class of the GDR and the people's militia of the People's Republic of Congo have been good.

[Question] And what are the perspectives for cooperation between these two militias after your visit to Congo?

[Answer] We are pursuing two main objectives concerning our cooperation: first the delivery of equipment for the people's militia and second the training of your personnel, the Congolese personnel, in the GDR to develop their level to training and their [word indistinct] level in order that they may in the future be able to train personnel of the Congolese militia. We have just signed a joint communique between the two militias in which we underlined the objectives of our cooperation in all fields, in the field of the development of the militias and [words indistinct]. And finally, in reply to the first question [words indistinct] concerning our visit to the president of the Central Committee comrade and president of the republic, we feel honored to have been welcomed by the president and we noted that the atmosphere there was very warm and cordial. Concerning political questions we noted that our views were identical. [end recording]

Delegation Visit Ends

AB231730 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] The visit to Congo of the delegation of the Workers Militia of the German Democratic Republic led by Gen (Nasov Ulov) [words indistinct] Central Committee, ended today. This delegation has been in our country since 13 May for a working visit during which it met political and military officials of the People's National (?Militia).

The final communique, which was signed this morning in the conference hall of the militia headquarters, underlines the perfect harmony of views between the two organizations and emphasizes the need to reinforce cooperation between them. [begin recording] The Workers Militia of the German Democratic Republic accepts the personnel of the national headquarters for training in the GDR. The personnel of the People's Militia will be trained in administration of personnel of the militia and in logistics.

The workers Militia of the GDR appreciates the revolutionary transformations which have been achieved and the victories which have been scored by the Congolese people [words indistinct] under the guidance of the Congolese Labor Party led by Comrade President Denis Sassou-N'Guesso. It praises the heroic contribution of the People's Militia towards safeguarding the gains of the revolution with a view to building a socialist society.

The People's Militia is pleased with the neutral aid which the socialist German people are offering them under the leadership of Comrade Eric Honecker, general secretary of the Socialist Unity Party and president of the GDR State Committee, by training its personnel and safeguarding the revolution and its gains with a view to attaining economic and social progress for its working people. This international act of the socialist German people [words indistinct].

The two parties note with satisfaction that on the African Continent the imperialists are at bay following the remarkable victories scored by the forces of progress, the most concrete of them being the attainment of independence by the former Portuguese colonies and other oppressed peoples. The two parties praised the brilliant victory scored by the people of Zimbabwe under the leadership of the Patriotic Front led by Robert Mugabe. The two parties reaffirm their unflinching solidarity with the Namibian people led by SWAPO. They condemn the South African regime which continues to flagrantly violate the UN and OAU resolutions by illegally occupying Namibian territory. The two parties support the action of the Palestinian people under the PLO and reaffirm their solidarity with the people of Latin America who are combatting fascist and dictatorial powers on that continent. The two parties condemn the imperialist attempts at destabilizing Socialist Vietnam which is at the stage of reconstruction. It also condemns imperialist interference in the internal affairs of Chad and launches an appeal to the forces present there to end the fratricidal war and respect the resolutions of the OAU and the Lagos Accords.

In their bid to further consolidate the fruitful relations between them, the Workers Militia of the GDR and the People's Militia of Congo will sign a draft cooperation agreement in July 1980, in Berlin, the GDR, for the years 1981 and 1982.

SASSOU-N'GUESSO EXPLAINS EXPULSION OF ZAIRIANS IN INTERVIEW

AB240824 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Comrade Denis Sassou-N'Guesso, president of the Central Committee, head of state and president of the Council of Ministers, explained to the Zairian press in an interview at the Palace of the People the Congolese position on the security problems that led authorities in Brazzaville to adopt certain decisions at the beginning of the year. [begin recording]

[Sassou-N'Guesso] First of all, we would like to thank president Mobutu Sese Seko for the honor he has paid us by agreeing to make this friendly and familiar visit to our country, a visit that enabled us to discuss [few words indistinct].

I should say straightaway that the Zairians who were expelled from Congo were illegal Zairians. Equally, I must point out that [words indistinct] and after consultations we decided that it was necessary to put an end to certain situations that were likely to degenerate and eventually to become serious. I said after consultations, because together we first of all had admitted that a certain number of criminals had appeared in Brazzaville who [words indistinct]. We had noticed that black markets, organized by Congolese or Zairians, had appeared throughout the entire city. [passage indistinct] This is unacceptable in Africa. Seeing that these criminals had appeared not only in Brazzabille, but also in Kinshasa, we thought it was necessary for the authorities in both cities to arrest these criminals, who are out to corrupt Africans. It was necessary to take forceful measures to put a stop to this abuse. It was not a unilateral measure. [words indistinct] When they want to stay in the country for longer periods, they must obey a certain number of laws. However, those permitted to stay created a very regrettable situation. They engaged in acts of banditry, black marketeering, armed robbery and even prostitution, so we decided that it was necessary to put an end to this type of abuse.

We did not act alone; we did not operate unilaterally. Consultations were held, but in view of the scale of the events, we were obliged to put a stop to these activities.

There are still some 2,800 persons with illegal status at [name indistinct]. In (Lodome) there must be nearly 1,800, and in (Kayote) more than 1,200. We are obliged to stop these activities, even though we are aware that they cannot be wiped out entirely, because I believe they are to the disadvantage of the two peoples. It is necessary for the authorities of the two countries to combine their efforts to put an end to this type of evil because we must concentrate on rebuilding a more humane and morally acceptable society. So acts like armed robbery, banditry, black marketeering, whether committed by Congolese or Zairians [words indistinct]. That is why we were obliged to take measures against such evils. Naturally, these measures (affect) the peaceful Zairian people who have been working here for years, and later on President Mobutu will address the Zairian students who are attending the Marien Ngouabi University. They are there, and they are working hard. We think these students work in harmony with their brothers at the Marien Ngouabi University, and they get along well.

[Question] Mr president, have the Congolese and Zairian authorities drawn up a security agreement, without which cooperation between the two countries would be a fiction?

[Answer] There are certain principles governing relations between our two countries [words indistinct]. These principles governing relations between our two countries are respect for the sovereignty and integrity of our respective territories, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and maintenance of good neighborliness. It appears to me that these principles are rigorously respected, and the agreements that we have signed for economic, technical and social cooperation are being implemented. [short passage indistinct] [end recording]

Responding to a question about Congo's position on the Chadian crisis, President Sassou-N'Guesso stressed our country's constant readiness to strive to find a viable solution to the Chadian problem in cooperation with other African countries.

## RWANDA

### ZAIRE, RWANDA, BURUNDI FOREIGN MINISTERS END MEETING

AB251032 Paris AFP in English 0931 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Kigali, Rwanda, May 25 (AFP)--Foreign ministers from the three-member Economic Community of Great Lake Countries expressed satisfaction this weekend that their organisation will enable them to contribute to the Lagos action plan for the creation of an African Economic Community by the year 2000.

The ministers, from Rwanda, Burundi and Zaire, ended their sixth ordinary meeting here yesterday. They said the achievements of their group were in line with the aims mapped out in principle at the first economic summit of the Organization of African Unity in Lagos last April 28 and 29.

The Lagos plan, reaffirmed as a commitment by heads of state and government at the Lagos summit, envisages the strengthening of existing economic groupings all over Africa during the coming decade.

The programme for the second decade envisages integration sector by sector and harmonisation of financial and monetary policies.

The great lakes foreign ministers will next meet at Bujumbura in Burundi in September.

ZAIRE

CAR PRESIDENT DACKO ARRIVES IN GBADOLITE FOR VISIT

AB261500 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1312 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Gbadolite, 26 May (AZAP)--The president of the Central African Republic and Madam David Dacko arrived today at Gbadolite at 1100 from Bangui on a 24-hour friendly visit.

They were welcomed after arriving on board the C-130 belonging to the Zaire Air Force (FAZA) which was at their disposal, by President Mobutu Sese Seko and his spouse, Mama Bobi Ladawa, accompanied by the special adviser to the president on matters of security and the director of the officer of the founding president of the MPR [Popular Movement of the Revolution]. The visit is within the framework of regular meetings of the leaders of the two countries which aim at strengthening the friendly and good-neighbor relations between Zaire and the Central African Republic.

President Dacko is accompanied by his vice president, who is also the foreign affairs minister, Mr. Sylvester Bangui; by the director of his cabinet, Mr Lingama Toleque; and by the Zairian ambassador to the CAR Citizen Embe.

MOBUTU INTERVIEWED ON VISIT TO CONGO, STATE OF MPR

AB231605 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1130 GMT 23 May 80

[Excerpt] Kinshasa 22 May (AZAP)--The founding president of the MPR [Popular Movement for the Revolution], president of the republic, Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko, returned to Kinshasa on Thursday evening at the end of an official visit of a few hours to the Congo at the invitation of his brother and counterpart, President Dennis Sassou-N'Guesso. The president of the republic, who was accompanied by his wife, Mama Bobi Ladawa, had discussions with his congolese counterpart on bilateral relations. The joint communique issued at the end of their talks states that the two heads of state noted with satisfaction the excellent relations which unite the two brotherly peoples, Congolese and Zairians, since the last meeting between the two presidents at the summit of 11 June 1979.

During their discussions, the two heads of state stressed the need to strengthen all aspects of security between the two countires and insisted on the good-neighbor principles which govern the relations existing between the two states. They also renewed the sentiments of brotherliness which happily unite the two peoples. The communique adds that on reviewing the results of the fourth session of the grand Zairian-Congolese joint commission, the two presidents expressed their satisfaction with this. In this regard, they reaffirmed their strong wish to see the previous accords realized to strengthen and consolidate the relations existing between the two countries. Examining the world situation, they paid particular attention to the burning issues of the moment, expressing their wish to find a peaceful solution to all the conflicts which are shaking the world.

Replying to questions by the Congolese press some time before the signing of the joint communique, the founding president of the MPR, in the name of his wife, his delegation and in his own name, sincerely thanked the head of state, the government, and the Congolese people of Brazzaville for the warm and sympathetic welcome accorded them.

He also expressed his joy at being with his Congolese counterpart to hold friendly discussions. Citizen Mobutu Sese Seko revealed that it was in Nice that the Congolese minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pierre Nze, delivered President Sassou-N'Guesso's message inviting him to the Congo. This was by way of reciprocity because it is known that the Congolese leader paid an official visit to Zaire on 11 June 1979. This meeting was necessary to finalize things and to permit the two brotherly countries to cooperate and move on to the implementation of previously concluded agreements. He stated, recently, as a matter of fact, some confusion began to arise in the relations between the two sides, which are nevertheless destined to live in harmony and cooperation.

Replying to a question, Guide Mobutu expressed his disagreement with certain cadres of the MPR who, during their interviews on television on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of the MPR, talked of crisis within the party. After all I have done towards unity in the country, and informing the people, I thought the cadres were in a position to take over for me, he stressed, adding that since the death of his first wife, he no longer presides over public assemblies, leaving everything to the cadres. But for 3 years now, there have been some gaps which almost resulted in a decline in militancy among the population. Since his speech of 4 February last, things have greatly changed and there is redynamization of action. General Mobutu also announced that soon he will take his pilgrim's staff once again and will tour the whole country to speak directly to the people. I think no one will talk about crisis of growth in the PMPR any longer, he added.

The president of the republic concluded on this point saying that the result of activities of the MPR was very positive. In effect, everywhere in Zaire people speak the same language, each Zairian feels at home in any part of the republic. To illustrate his words, General Mobutu cited the behavior of the Zairian people during this period of economic crisis facing the country. With the exception of some agitation by students and the teaching body in Kinshasa, the Zairian people have understood with a lot of militancy that they have to close ranks around the founding president in order to overcome the crisis easily.

Replying to another question, the founding president of the MPR stated that there is no confusion in his mind concerning the simultaneous implementation of bilateral cooperation between African countries and multilateral cooperation between African, European and Asian countries. We have to begin with cooperation between neighboring countries, then between countries of the same region of a continent before going on to countries in other continents. It would be meaningless, for example, for the Congo to cooperate with Romania or Canada, forgetting Zaire, he said.

LARGE-SCALE MANEUVERS SCHEDULED IN SHABA

AB231936 Kinshasa AZAP in French 1638 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Lubumbashi 23 May (AZAP)--The first military region will organize annual military maneuvers on a large scale in Shaba, more exactly in the subregions of Lubumbashi, Haut Shaba, Kolwezi and Dualaba. These maneuvers fall within the framework of a vast training program prescribed for soldiers of the FAZ [Zairian Armed Forces] by the supreme commander of the FAZ, General Mobutu Sese Seko, after the last war in Shaba.

BRIEFS

FRANCO-CONGOLESE COOPERATION--Kinshasa, 23 May (AFP)--Two agreements totalling 198 million CFA francs (FF 3.96 million) were signed on Thursday between France and the Congo. The first agreement of 73 million CFA francs (FF 1.41 million) constitutes assistance to the Marien Ngouabi University while the second comprising 125 million CFA francs (FF 2.5 million) is to help in the functioning of the rural program, the regulation of graphic works and the study of master schemes of the towns of Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire. [Text] [Paris AFP in French 1143 GMT 23 May 80 AB]

## BENIN

### BENIN DECIDES TO ATTEND MOSCOW OLYMPIC GAMES

AB241210 Paris AFP in French 1137 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Cotonou, 24 May (AFP)--Benin will attend the Moscow Olympic Games, it was learned from Cotonou on Saturday. The Beninese head of state, Col Mathieu Kerekou, announced the participation of his country during the recent national athletics championships held in the Beninese capital.

## GHANA

### GOVERNMENT DECIDES NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN MOSCOW OLYMPICS

AB240735 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] The Ghana National Olympic Committee has decided not to take part in the Moscow Olympic Games. A statement issued last night by the committee says the decision, taken on the 15th of this month, was based purely on the fact that local circumstances have militated against adequate preparations of the nation's sportsmen and women. The statement says that under normal circumstances it takes 4 years to prepare for the Olympic Games, but the unhealthy situation in the country for the past 2 years did not make it possible for Ghana to prepare meaningfully for the games. According to the statement, the break in the preparation of the sportsmen and women has made it technically unwise to send inadequately prepared sportsmen and women to the Olympic Games this year. The statement recalls that soon after the 4 June revolution last year, the National Sports Council and all the national associations were dissolved and this threw all programs drawn up for the games out of gear.

## GUINEA

### SEKOU TOURE GIVES ASSURANCES IN TALKS WITH DOE

AB232140 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] The Government of Guinea has assured the government and people of Liberia that the historic ties between them will not be interrupted because of the change in the Liberian leadership. Guinean President Sekou Toure gave the assurance in Conakry today when he received the head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council of Liberia, M Sgt Samuel Doe, who led a 36-man delegation for a brief visit to Guinea today.

The Guinean leader cautioned the Liberian head of state and the officials of the Liberian Government to handle the affairs of the state with honesty and sincerity. He said they must work rapidly to bring about the needed socioeconomic prosperity to the Liberian people.

During their discussions, President Toure and Master Sergeant Doe agreed on the need to strengthen the economic and technical cooperation between Liberia and Guinea. Master Sergeant Doe acquainted the Guinean leader with conditions which led to the April 12 revolution. He said the Tolbert regime had lost the ability to govern the citizens properly and the people therefore lost confidence in the government. The Liberian leader said the April 12 revolution was to begin a process of cleaning up in the Liberian society.

Meanwhile, Liberia has condemned the recent attempt by what it calls reactionary and counterrevolutionary elements in Guinea to assassinate President Sekou Toure. The Liberian head of state told his Guinean counterpart today that he had gone to Conakry to express the Liberian people's solidarity with him.

The 36-man top-level Liberian delegation headed by Master Sergeant Doe has flown back to Liberia on board a Guinean Boeing 707 made available by President Toure. The delegation traveled to Guinea on board a Liberian aircraft.

MINISTER LEAVES ON 'URGENT MISSION' TO EEC, WORLD BANK

AB240753 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] Public Works Minister Gabriel Tucker has left Liberia on an urgent mission to the European Economic Community and the World Bank. A release from the public relations section of the Public Works Ministry did not disclose the nature of Minister Tucker's visit abroad, but noted that the visit is believed to be in the supreme interest of the Liberian Government and people. Minister Tucker, who is making his first visit abroad since the People's Redemption Council Government came to power, is expected to be away for about 1 week. During the absence of Minister Tucker, the assistant minister of public works for operations, (Dr Thomas Boker), will serve as acting minister of public works.

## NIGER

BREZHNEV SENDS MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE

AB231951 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] The chairman of the supreme military council and head of state, Col Seyni Kountche this morning received in audience the managing director of Air Afrique, Mr Aoussou Koffi, and the Ambassador of the Soviet Union to Niamey. After the audience, Mr Aoussou Koffi, who was accompanied by the representative of Air Afrique to Niger, said that he had come to meet the head of state on the eve of the meeting of the heads of member states of the company.

For his part, the Soviet diplomat said that he had come to convey a message from the Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev to the head of state.

## SENEGAL

SENGHOR RECEIVES ENVOY FROM CHAD FACTION LEADER HABRE

AB251206 Kinshasa AZAP in French 0900 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Dakar, 25 May (AZAP)--Mr Leopold Sedar Senghor, the Senegalese head of state and current chairman of the OAU, has received a Chadian delegation led by Mr Mahamat Saleh, adviser on external relations in the Northern Armed Forces (FAN) and bearer of a message from Hissein Habre, leader of the FAN.

This is the second audience given by the Senegalese head of state to an FAN delegation since the beginning of May. Following the Lagos summit at the end of April, Mr Senghor proposed a meeting of all the Chadian factions to settle their conflict.

## SIERRA LEONE

KOROMA PRAISES SOVIET SUPPORT FOR AFRICA

AB241355 Freetown Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT 23 May 80

[Text] The acting president, Mr S.I. Koroma, has said that African states should be justly proud of the Soviet Union for its contribution toward the decolonization of the continent.

He said that if it was not for the Soviet system, independence would not have been achieved by many African countries today. The acting president was speaking to the Soviet ambassador, Mr Aleksandr Vorozhtsov, who called on him this morning to deliver the text of a message of congratulations from President Leonid Brezhnev on the occasion of African Liberation Day. Mr Koroma said the message itself was an indication of Soviet support for the policies of African states.

Ambassador Vorozhtsov also handed over to Acting President Koroma a series of books on the history and geography of the Soviet Union and a special calendar commemorating the forthcoming Olympic Games in Moscow. The text of the message will be published in the May 25 edition of (?PRAVDA).

TOGO

AFRICAN DIGNITARIES ARRIVE IN LOME FOR ECOWAS SUMMIT

AB221631 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 21 May 80

[Text] The plenipotentiaries of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] have been meeting in our capital since Monday. They are participating in the preliminary session of the ECOWAS heads of state summit. [Words indistinct] to the summit of this organization which was formed in May 1975 and whose great ambition is to achieve the economic integration of the west African subregion.

Many foreigners have been arriving in our capital these last few days to await this important event which will bring together in Lome the highest officials of the 16 member countries of our economic organization, namely heads of state and government. Streamers bearing the names of the heads of state and also bearing words of welcome have appeared in Lome. The national colors of the various member countries of the large community are decorating the streets of Lome. The people of the capital are filled with the militant desire to give a pleasant welcome to our honorable guests at the Lome summit. Delegations have been arriving in our capital since last Monday to attend the ECOWAS summit.

This afternoon the Gambian minister of economic planning and industrial development, Mr Sabally Saihou; the Sierra Leonean minister of development and economic planning, Dr Sama S. Banya; and the Senegalese minister of commerce, Mr Lamine Diop, arrived in Lome. The three ministers were welcomed on arrival by the member of the political bureau and minister of administrative reform, Mr Koudjolou Dogo.

This morning the Ivorian minister of economy and finance, Mr Abdoulaye Kone arrived in Lome. During a short interview that he accorded to the press, Mr Abdoulaye Kone stated that the Ivory Coast attaches great importance to the forthcoming ECOWAS summit and that the discussions at the Council of Ministers meeting will be on the (?exchange) of industrial development, the free circulation of goods and persons between member countries. The minister also stressed the importance of the defense agreement which [words indistinct] future generations. [short passage indistinct]

(?One of the aims) of ECOWAS is to promote cooperation and development in all the socioeconomic spheres of member states in order to raise the standard of living of the people living in the countries concerned. This summit is considered as one of the most important summits of the community because decisions made during the recent Dakar summit, including the defense pact, will be examined. [passage indistinct] Therefore, the chiefs of staff and the defense ministers who have been meeting in Lome are making preparations for the summit in question.

It should be noted that a pan-African telecommunications meeting was recently held in our capital.

## ANGOLA

### PRICE OF OIL INCREASED BY $1.70 AS OF 1 MAY

AB241056 Paris AFP in French 1021 GMT 24 May 80

[Text] Luanda, 24 May (AFP)--Angola has increased the price of her oil by $1.70 per barrel to reach $35.50, sources close to the Ministry of Oil disclosed on Saturday. This price is applicable to all contracts dating from 1 May, the sources confirmed.

### DEFENSE MINISTRY ACCUSES S. AFRICA OF 'ACTS OF AGGRESSION'

#### Communique Issued

LD250915 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Here is the text of a communique issued by the Ministry of Defense and sent us last night: In their desperate attempt to hold back the progress of the Angolan revolution toward socialism and impose their UNITA lackeys as controlling elements in the proposed DMZ, the South African racists continue to unleash acts of aggression against the People's Republic of Angola. Thus, after informing the UN secretary general of their positions on the proposal for a DMZ, the racist South African forces have escalated their murderous fury against the Angolan people and their territory.

As they made clear in their reply to the proposal for a DMZ, the South African authorities intend to involve other parties--hitherto uninvolved in the implementation of the proposal--besides the legitimate government of the Peoples Republic of Angola, SWAPO and the South African authorities now in illegal occupation of Namibian territory. Within this framework, racist South African troops have since May, been initiating full-scale operations in the provinces of Cunene and Cuando Cubango against major population centers close to the boundaries of the proposed DMZ with the aim of infiltrating their UNITA lackeys, who are traitors to the cause of the Angola people, (former) running dogs of the notorious PIDE [former Portuguese intelligence] and obsequious servants of the racist South African authorities and their odious apartheid regime.

On 12 May 1980, at about 0500 racist helicopter-borne troops in eight Puma helicopters preceded by six Mirage aircraft, bombed and occupied for some hours the commune of (Siet) in Cunene Province, about 25 km from the Namibian border. They killed 60 civilians--men, women and children--and wounded 19 others. They also destroyed most of the houses. In their retreat to Namibia they took with them many members of the public.

On 21 May 1980, at about 0600 a South African racist force made up of infantry, 13 Alouette-III gunships, one Puma helicopter and one reconnaissance plane, 11 (?all-790) armored vehicles and 140-mm and 88-mm guns, attacked (Savate) village in Cuando Cubango, about 60 km from the Namibian border. After 10 hours of fighting against superior odds, our heroic soldiers were forced to retreat to positions further from the battle zone, having lost over 200 killed and an unknown number of wounded. The casualties included soldiers and civilians. Large quantities of material goods were destroyed. In their withdrawal to Namibian territory, the racist South African troops took with them war material, military and civilian vehicles and a large number of civilians.

In view of this renewed escalation of aggression by racist South African troops, which has well-defined political objectives, the Ministry of Defense alerts the international community to the fact that our glorious FAPLA [Angolan armed forces] will not continue to allow these constant attacks to take place with impunity and warns it will not accept responsibility for any possible reprisals our armed forces may take in order to safeguard the territorial integrity of our fatherland.

We also state categorically that we shall never given an inch of our unshakeable support for the cause of the liberation of the Namibian people and their revolutionary vanguard, SWAPO. The struggle continues, victory is certain.

[Signed] Commander (Chieto), first deputy defense minister and chief of the general staff, office of the chief of the general staff of FAPLA, 24 May 1980, year of the first extraordinary party congress and of the creation of the People's Assembly.

Casualty Figures Released

AB260850 Paris AFP in English 0724 GMT 26 May 80

[Text] Luanda, 26 May (AFP)--South African raids have killed more than 250 people in southern Angola in the past week, the Defence Ministry said here Sunday. It said that 200 people died and an as yet unknown number were wounded in a 15-hour attack against Angolan troops mounted on May 21 by South African warplanes, heliborne troops, armoured cars and artillery around Savate village in Cuando Cubango Province, which borders Namibia.

More than 60 people, including women and children, died in a second, later air strike (the ministry gave no date) backed by troops against Cieda village in Cunene Province, also fronting Namibia. The South Africans temporarily occupied the village, the ministry said. The casualty figures given are the highest since a South African raid in 1978 on Cassinga village in the border region in which more than 600 people were reported killed.

The ministry said the latest attacks were part of attempts to bolster the position of the guerrillas of the anti-Luanda UNITA movement led by Jonas Savimbi. The aim was to have UNITA included as a necessary element in arrangements for a proposed demilitarized zone either side of the Angolan-Namibian frontier under U.N. plans for Namibia's independence, the ministry said.

NAMIBIA

JOHANNESBURG REPORTS 81 'TERRORISTS' KILLED

LD231752 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 May 80 CA

[Excerpt] Eighty-one terrorists have been killed in a major clash with the security forces in the operational zone. A joint announcement by Defense Headquarters in Pretoria and South-West Africa Command says there were five losses on the side of the South African and South-West African defense forces. The defense force statement says the five soldiers were killed when they landed in a large enemy ambush in the border area. A heavy battle followed, and the security forces immediately went onto the attack. The security forces suffered losses, but they managed to get the terrorists to flee. Security forces gave chase, and in the clash that followed 81 terrorists were killed. The security forces seized a large quantity of light and heavy weaponry, ammunition and (?webbing).

MOZAMBIQUE

MACHEL, ZIMBABWE'S MUGABE HOLD TALKS IN BEIRA

LD232055 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 23 May 80 EA

[Text] The first meeting between the Mozambique head of state, President Samora Machel, and Zimbabwe Prime Minister Robert Mugabe was held in Beira today.

Hundreds of people went to Beira international airport to witness and participate in tne historic moment when President Samora Machel received Robert Mugabe for the first time as head of the Government of Zimbabwe. The welcome was marked by warmth and happiness, with songs and greetings to Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, ZANU and the people of Zimbabwe. During the ceremony there was a fly-over by MiG fighter-bombers of the People's Air Force in honor of the guests.

At the opening round of talks, held at President Samora Machel's residence in Beira, the Mozambique head of the state made a speech of welcome to the Zimbabwe delegation in which he stressed that the visit reflects the profound transformation of relations in our region after the victory of the people of Zimbabwe.

In reply, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said that Zimbabwe would (?work for strengthening) relations between the frontline countries, African countries and the international progressive community which supported the struggle of the Zimbabwe people.

The prime minister later stressed that the People's Republic of Mozambique was the country which supported the liberation of Zimbabwe the most and that relations between the two countries should reflect the eternal ties of friendship forged in the common struggle.

At the end of the talks tonight, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe gave a press conference at Beira airport. At the press conference Robert Mugabe said [words indistinct]. Referring to the fields of cooperation which exist at this moment, the Zimbabwe prime minister stressed transport, power and telecommunications. He laid special emphasis on the [word indistinct] use by the two countries of railways linking Zimbabwe to Mozambique's ports. Other fields of cooperation are trade, agriculture, mines and industry. He stressed that there already exists a protocol on cooperation in the field of information.

A problem of crucial importance is reopening the pipeline linking Beira and Umtali, which was closed in 1978. Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said the pipeline reopening was of vital urgency.

The Zimbabwean delegation left Beira airport for Salisbury at about 1700.

The Mozambique delegation headed by President Samora Machel has already returned to Maputo.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### MUZENDA SAYS ZIMBABWE UNDECIDED ON TIES WITH S. AFRICA

LD250904 Johannesburg International Service in English 0300 GMT 25 May 80

[Text] Zimbabwe's deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, Mr Simon Muzenda, says his government has not yet decided what policy to follow towards South Africa. The Zimbabwe Government has previously said that it will maintain trade ties with South Africa although it opposes this country's domestic policies, and that it will not allow Zimbabwe to be used as a base for terrorist attacks on South Africa. Mr Muzenda said in Salisbury that he could not comment on an observation by the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, that diplomatic relations between South Africa and Zimbabwe (?would be) along conventional lines. He said Mr Botha's statement would have to be considered by the Zimbabwean Government before any response could be made.

ZIMBABWE

FINANCE MINISTER ACCEPTS $50 MILLION IN U.S. AID

LD221254 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1614 GMT 21 May 80 ID/CA

[Text] It was announced in Salisbury today that the United States Government has plans to grant some $50 million in aid to Zimbabwe over the next 10 months. The announcement was made by the American charge d'affaires, Mr Geoffrey Davidow, when he handed over a cheque for $300,000 to the minister of finance, Comrade Enos Nkala. The cheque was the first installment of a $2 million grant pledged by the United States on Zimbabwe's independence, and earmarked for rebuilding rural clinics. The news of forthcoming additional aid of a more substantial nature was gratefully received by the minister.

[Begin Nkala recording] Although I've been disappointed with the United States' Government's performance in regard to aid to us, what we have discussed today may go a long way to get the United States to increase its aid to our government, more particularly in the area of rural development, because peasant agriculture there at this very moment is at zero and we would like to inject something there and pick it off from there and see it going upward. There is also the need to assist commercial farmers whose farms were either devastated by the war itself or by drought and so on. We have got to lift them upward in order that we can get them to increase food production. Not forgetting that in Lusaka we were given a commission to raise food for the region, and if we are to raise food for that region, we need some initial capital with which to begin. We have the potential for higher agricultural production, but it's just a potential. What we need now is to translate that potential to physical processes, and I am, therefore, very thankful to the representative of the United States and also thankful at receiving this cheque and at which we have discussed here. I am a little more hopeful than I was before I came into this hall. [end recording]

Mr Davidow was then asked if the Carter administration considers it commitment in aid to Zimbabwe adequate. He was also asked how much of the total figure he talks about has actually been approved by Congress: [begin recording]

[Davidow] Obviously, the needs of the Government of Zimbabwe are great, and the United States Government wants to help and will be helping, in accordance with the guidelines and criteria established by the Government of Zimbabwe. The aid program that we're talking about is over a 2-year period--actually an 18-month period--amounts to about $50 million, which makes it one of the largest aid programs that the United States has. Certainly, I believe only one other country in sub-Saharan Africa [words indistinct] a larger assistance program.

[Question from hall] [Words indistinct] approved by Congress?

[Davidow] Well, what has been approved is the money for this fiscal year. Our fiscal year ends in September, and what has been approved as a $15 million grant to the Government of Zimbabwe and a $5 million grant to the UN High Commission for Refugees. President Carter has indicated that next year we will request $25 million to $30 million for the Government of Zimbabwe, which, of course, will have to go through the regular Congressional appropriations process. [end recording]